



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH
ALABAMA
MAGAZINE

FALL 2020 • VOLUME 28, NO. 2

BACK TO COLBERT

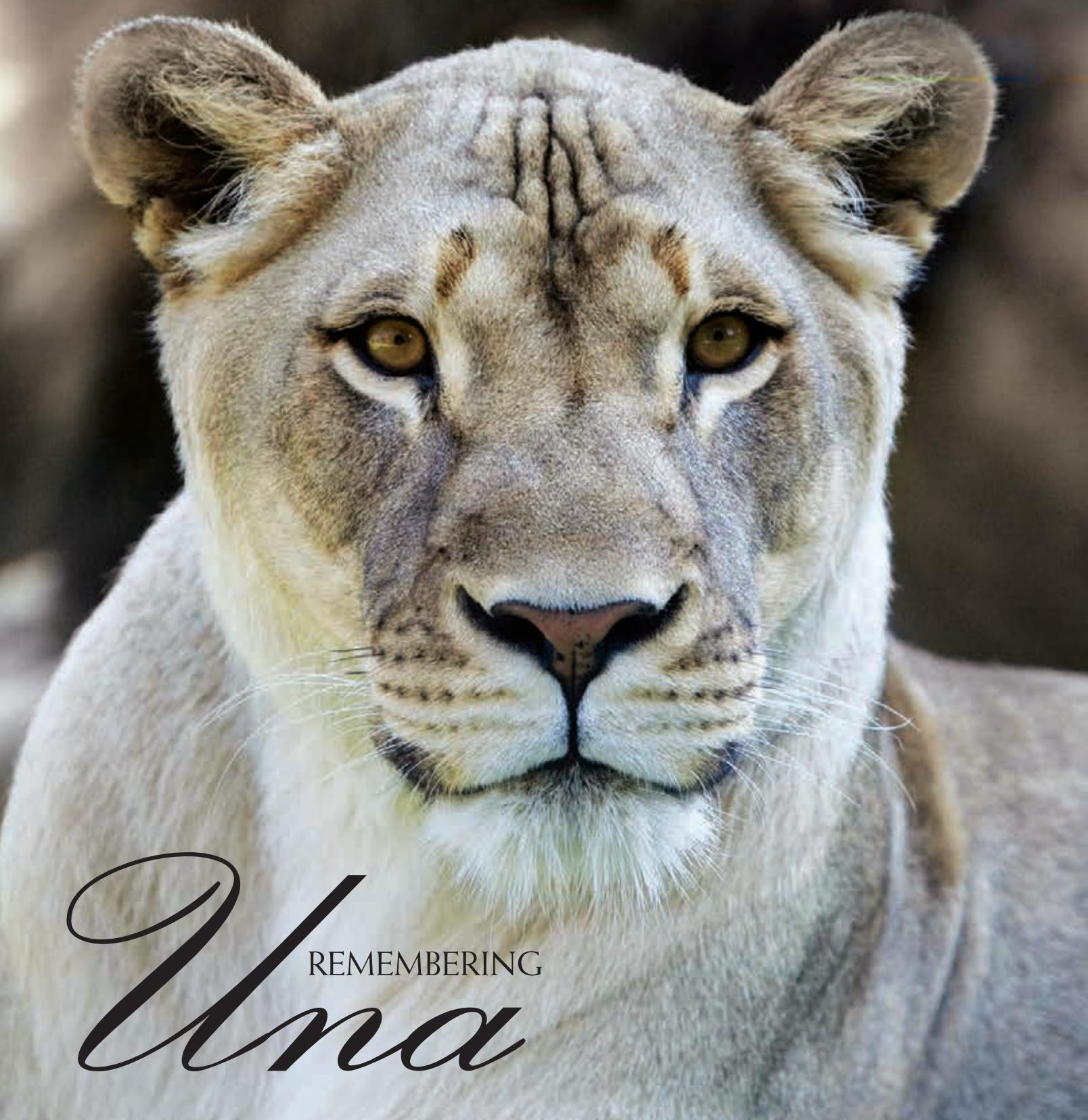
University begins move into new space in Tuscumbia

CELEBRATING WOMEN

2021-2022 will mark the Year of UNA Women

SPRING ATHLETICS

Lions prepare for spring sporting events, Linder confirms



Una
REMEMBERING



For the first time, members of the University of North Alabama community partnered with the City of Florence to have Paw-loween. Students spent the morning repainting the paws on the north end of Court Street, while the afternoon was spent one block down having a trunk-or-treat for local children. The event was part of ongoing town/gown efforts by UNA and the City.





PAW-LOWEEN

It was the perfect Saturday in October for the first Paw-loween in downtown Florence, an event that partnered the University of North Alabama with the City of Florence as part of the already robust town/gown relationship between the two entities.

Students spent the morning painting the paws on the north end of Court Street, outlining the purple paws with the distinct UNA gold. All of the paws will be repainted in the coming months, and the University and City logos will anchor the end of the street as you approach the Court and Irvine street intersections.

The afternoon was spent with local children as University and City departments provided candy as part of a trunk-or-treat. Paw-loween took place on Halloween, which had been designated as Homecoming before plans shifted to the spring as a result of the ongoing pandemic.





ADMINISTRATION

President
Kenneth D. Kits

Provost and Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs
Ross Alexander

Vice President for
Business and Financial Affairs
Evan Thornton '15

Vice President for Student Affairs
Kim Greenway '91

Vice President for University Advancement
Kevin Haslam

Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Ron Patterson

STAFF

PUBLISHER/EDITOR
Michelle Eubanks '96

COPY EDITOR
B.J. Wilson '80

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Kali Daniel '16

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
Maria Beck '18
Anna Carden

UNIVERSITY VIDEOGRAPHER/PHOTOGRAPHER
Leah Johnson

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Abby Folsom
Joe Romans Photography
Shannon Wells '05

FEATURE WRITERS

Michelle Eubanks '96 Molly Kirkpatrick
Jeremy Henderson Guy McClure '84

QUESTIONS OR INQUIRIES:
256-765-4225

ADDRESS CHANGES AND ALUMNI UPDATES:
256-765-4201 or alumni1@una.edu

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Under Title IX and UNA Policy, UNA does not discriminate on the basis of sex in university education programs or activities, including admissions decisions. For internal inquiries about the application of Title IX or the University's nondiscrimination statement on the basis of sex, please contact: UNA Title IX Coordinator and Compliance Administrator, Ms. Kayleigh Baker, UNA Box 5023, 207 Guillot University Center, Florence, AL 35632, (256) 765-4223, kbaker5@una.edu. For external inquiries, please contact: Office for Civil Rights (OCR) U.S. Department of Education • 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20202-1100 • Customer Service Hotline #: (800) 421-3481 • Fax: (202) 453-6012 • TDD#: (877) 521-2172 • Email: OCR@ed.gov • Web: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

Information contained herein is as it currently exists but
is subject to change without prior notice.



PAGE 10

COVER STORY: REMEMBERING THE UNIVERSITY'S 'LITTLE LADY'

LETTERS

- 4** FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 5** FROM THE EDITOR
- 52** FROM THE ALUMNI PRESIDENT
- 54** FROM THE PAST ALUMNI PRESIDENT

UPDATES

- 20** COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
- 24** HONORS COLLEGE
- 30** ANDERSON COLLEGE OF NURSING
AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS
- 34** COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES
- 38** COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
- 46** ATHLETICS

OF NOTE

- 6** HEADLINE NEWS
- 8** COVID-READY CAMPUS
- 18** COMMENCEMENT WITH A TWIST
- 26** YEAR OF UNA WOMEN
- 42** BACK TO COLBERT COUNTY
- 44** FOUNDERS' DAY
- 50** THE LEGACY INITIATIVE
- 54** CLASS NOTES
- 56** IN MEMORY



Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this Fall 2020 edition of UNA Magazine. As I write this message, our campus is alive with activity.

Construction crews are working in Harrison Plaza to prepare for the installation of a new marble fountain that will feature the same design and dimensions as the original work. Just off Pine Street, we recently opened Harrison Hall, the home of the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions. Our faculty and staff are busy settling into their new home and welcoming students to classes and labs in that beautiful facility. And next door in LaGrange Hall, architects and designers are planning a major renovation that will bring that residence hall back into the mainstream of student life and provide better pedestrian access between the academic and residential portions of campus.

These aesthetic enhancements are matched by good news on enrollment. Just before the magazine printed, we received the final tally for Fall 2020, and I'm pleased to report we continue to break records at UNA. Our overall headcount enrollment this semester is 8,361 students – up almost four percent over the old record of 8,046 from last fall. The fact that we have been able to continue to grow despite the pandemic speaks volumes about the hard work of our faculty and staff as well as UNA's growing reputation as a destination of choice for college-bound students.

Embedded within this fall's enrollment report is the fact that women now constitute 62.2 percent of total enrollment at UNA. That's an important data point to keep in mind as we begin to look ahead to the 150th anniversary of the admittance of women to this institution. We're going to mark that sesquicentennial by declaring 2021 as the "Year of UNA Women," complete with historical displays and related programming. Stay tuned for details. Among other things, we'll use that opportunity to celebrate the life of Una, the beloved lioness who served this campus so well as one of our mascots from 2002 until her passing last summer.

Finally, I ask all alumni and friends to join with us on January 11, 2021, as we use both live and social media platforms to mark Founders' Day. On that date, we'll honor our forebears and give thanks for the many lives this institution has changed in its 191-year history. My hope is that we can continue to grow the Founders' Day tradition to underscore our rich history and honor our title as the oldest four-year university in the State of Alabama. It's a legacy worth celebrating!

Dena and I thank you for your continuing support of UNA and look forward to seeing you soon.

Roar Lions!

Ken Kitts, Ph. D.
President



Editor's Note

Dear friends,

It's a beautiful fall day outside, and, just down the street from where I sit, the cars are packing up from the first Paw-loween, a trunk-or-treat and repainting of the paws event that took place on Oct. 31 in downtown Florence on what would have been UNA's Homecoming Saturday. A dozen or more departments from the City of Florence and the University of North Alabama teamed up as a means to reinvigorate the relationship between the two entities.

It was special in a lot of ways, not the least of which was having a somewhat typical event even in the midst of the ongoing global pandemic. Children got to trick-or-treat in costume, and adults got to enjoy a little socializing. It felt right; it felt real – maybe for the first time in months there was something a little like life pre-Covid.

This issue of the UNA Magazine is a little like that life, too, as we celebrate some of the incredible things happening on campus – the record fall enrollment, for instance, as well as the opening of Harrison Hall as the new home to the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions – even as we wear our face coverings and socially distance, take our daily health checks and hybridize our learning environment.

This year has been marked by so much change, so many ups and downs. Una's death, on June 30, was among those difficult times on campus. Jeremy Henderson pays a lovely tribute to her and her caregivers, Anne and Dan Howard, in his cover story. It lovingly captures Una's spirit and shares so many of the details about her life as UNA's beloved lioness, the first female lion to live alongside brother, Leo III, in

Despite the challenges we have faced, it's clear that the University of North Alabama can and does persevere.

the George H. Carroll Lion Habitat.

Una, as the first lioness, was a trendsetter, and in 2021, we'll embark on a year of celebrating the Sesquicentennial (that's 150 years, btw) of women on campus. UNA has a long history of being the first, and our annual Founders' Day commemorates our 1830 founding as the first four-year institution in Alabama. UNA was also the first four-year institution south of the Ohio River to admit women. There will be a year of events geared toward that Sesquicentennial, and you can read all about what to expect in the pages that follow.

You'll also get an update on the rebuilding of Harrison Fountain and Plaza and the Legacy Initiative that's helping bring back that iconic campus landmark. Work is well underway on its reconstruction, and, with any luck, you'll be reading about it in the next issue.

Despite the challenges we have faced, it's clear that the University of North Alabama can and does persevere. We thrive. We celebrate. We look forward. And we do so with a keen eye on the history and traditions that have brought us here, through several name changes and even a change of address. I'm often reminded of that cheer from my days at UNA: It's great to be a UNA Lion. Indeed it is.

Roar Lions!

Michelle Rupe Eubanks '96



COULD A GLOBAL PANDEMIC STOP UNA? NOT LIKELY!

Prepared for the worst, the University had a banner year in spite of challenges

As the Fall 2020 semester got underway in August, there were questions among campus constituencies about the University's ability to continue to house and educate students amid the global pandemic. College campuses across the United States were shifting to fully remote environments by the dozens as caseloads spiked. The Covid Recovery Task Force at UNA had done its job and created a plan; would it be enough?

Campus had prepared for the worst, it appeared, but what would it look like if, instead of the challenges that had brought us to the start of the new academic year, there was some much-needed good news? That

By Michelle Rupe Eubanks '96
For the UNA Magazine

good news did, in fact, happen, and here are just a few of the remarkable highlights:

RECORD ENROLLMENT

Enrollment broke all previous records, with nearly 8,400 students enrolled and with the largest growth coming in online programs. This indicates an approximate four percent increase in enrollment from Fall 2019 and comes as many college and university campuses elsewhere experienced declines as a result of the pandemic.

"I am extremely satisfied with our final enrollment

number for Fall 2020, which is the product of an intentional strategy," said UNA President Dr. Ken Kitts. "We experienced significant gains among several student groups, most notably among our online graduate students."

As mentioned by President Kitts, online graduate enrollment alone grew by 35 percent from 2019 to 2020. Also, approximately 77 percent of freshmen who entered UNA in the Fall of 2019 opted to return to campus in the Fall of 2020, which indicates a record retention rate and places UNA well ahead of our peer group in the persistence of first-time, full-time students.

"Our record retention rate is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our dedicated faculty members and professional advisors," Kitts said.

RANKED AMONG BEST PUBLIC REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES

For the second year, UNA has ranked among the best Public Regional Universities of the South category, according to the 2021 list released by U.S. News & World Report. This year, UNA moved to 17th in this category, up from 19th in the previous year.

"We are very pleased to receive this designation for the second year, especially in the midst of so many challenges we have faced as an institution," said Kitts. "Our performance across each of these categories indicates that we continue to provide a high-quality education to all of our students, from traditional to online to international."

In addition to UNA's regional ranking, the University was also listed as:

- 24th in Best Colleges for Veterans (tie)
- 40th in Best Value Schools
- 40th in Regional Universities South (tie)

“Our performance across each of these categories indicates that we continue to provide a high-quality education to all of our students, from traditional to online to international.”

- 99th in Top Performers on Social Mobility (tie)

"At UNA, we have a dedicated faculty, committed to ensuring a first-rate education for our students," said Dr. Ross Alexander, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. "Being ranked among the top public schools in the South as well as among the regional universities in the South, which includes public as well as private institutions, illustrates our ongoing commitment to recruiting, retaining, and graduating the best students to fill the workforce needs of the state and region."

UNA NAMED A GREAT COLLEGE TO WORK FOR

UNA was also named one of America's "Great Colleges to Work For in 2020" by The Chronicle of Higher Education, the nation's premier publication for professional academia. In its 13th survey of faculty and staff on university campuses, the Washington D.C.-based journal recognized UNA and 78 other institutions based on employee responses in a dozen categories.

"The recognition from The Chronicle as one of the 'Great Colleges to Work For in 2020' is

confirmation of what UNA's faculty and staff have known for some time," Kitts said. "We take a great deal of pride in what we do, from the teaching environment for our talented faculty to the professional development opportunities offered to all employees, and it shows in overall job satisfaction. This is part of what makes UNA such a special place for our students to live, learn, and grow."

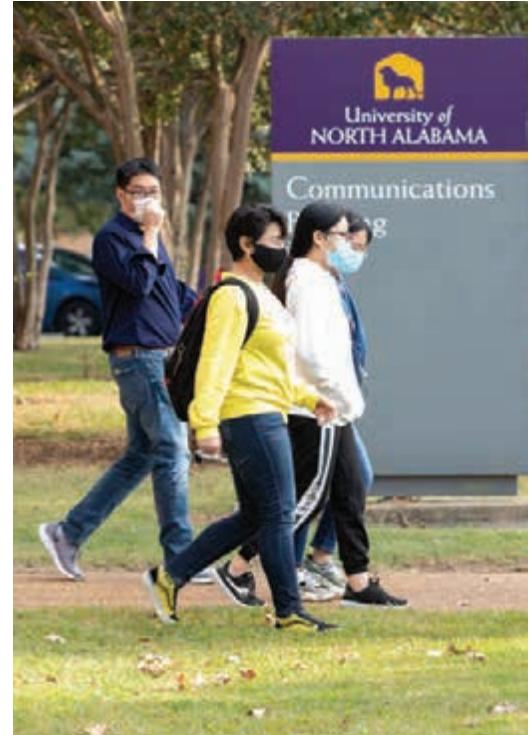
UNA scored high marks in several of the categories, including job satisfaction and support, confidence in senior leadership, professional and career development programs, compensation and benefits, respect for shared governance, and teaching environment. It's the third time UNA has been acknowledged as a Great College to Work For; previous recognition took place in 2010 and 2013.

The initiative is spearheaded by the Office of Human Resources, which is led by Assistant Vice President Catherine White.

"Despite the pandemic and the job changes we were all experiencing as a result of that global event, UNA's employees reported a great deal of job satisfaction and overall pride in working for the University," she said. "It is affirming to have this recognition for UNA."



COVID-ready Campus





When COVID-19 reached global pandemic stage in early 2020, the University of North Alabama responded quickly and decisively. UNA President Dr. Ken Kitts appointed a COVID Recovery Task Force, led by Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Kimberly Greenway. That body spent a number of weeks throughout the summer preparing the document that would allow for a return to campus in the fall semester.

The 26-page document outlines

how classrooms would adhere to social distancing standards, how signage would be used to keep foot traffic flowing in a single direction inside buildings, and the requirement of wearing cloth face coverings. University Health Services also initiated sentinel testing, and all students were COVID tested thanks to a partnership with GuideSafe Alabama. Although events and gatherings were cancelled, students, faculty, and staff enjoyed the opportunity to be back

on campus in an environment that was safe and functional, despite the ongoing pandemic.

As a result of the combined efforts of the COVID Recovery Task Force and all members of the UNA campus community, the rates of positive virus cases fell during the fall semester, and students were allowed to complete their coursework online after the Thanksgiving holiday. The recovery plan remained in effect for the Spring 2021 semester.



LITTLE

It was a slow news day, and they hadn't done anything on the lions in a while. This could be good, something interesting and educational, and angled around the only thing people were talking about on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2014 — the weather. An arctic blast had been breaking records across the WAFF viewing area for the last few weeks. In Florence, the high would hit freezing — that's it. The night was supposed to drop to single digits.

Shoals Bureau reporter Marie Waxel got the nod from her producer and picked up the phone. The woman on the other end told her to come on down to the habitat and that she'd absolutely show her the indoor enclosure and everything else the University of North Alabama used to keep their beautiful lions cozy in the cold; she'd even let her set up inside the first fence. It would be great.

It was just Marie and her camera. And her red WAFF jacket.

"I think that's what did it — me putting on the jacket," Marie said. "You can see those eyes just lock in on me."

"When the weather gets cold, you and I put on jackets and we pump up the heat in our homes to be comfortable, to brace ourselves against the frigid temperatures. But what about Leo and Una..."

That was it. On the first take, that's as far as she got — 19 seconds.

She sent the clip to some folks back at the station. Subject line: "You think you're having a bad day?"

Everyone laughed. They shared it around the

studio. Ah, if only she'd kept rolling! She couldn't have scripted that if she'd tried. Having one of the lions stalk her during the shot, then jump up and scare her to death, perfectly in frame, as soon as she said its name?

Like she said off camera in between laughs, "That would have been perfect."

WAFF's digital producer still thought it would be perfect. Unusable for the main piece, maybe. But it might get some shares on Facebook. Bloopers did that sometimes. He posted it.

It didn't take long.

First she started getting texts from friends. LOL. OMG.

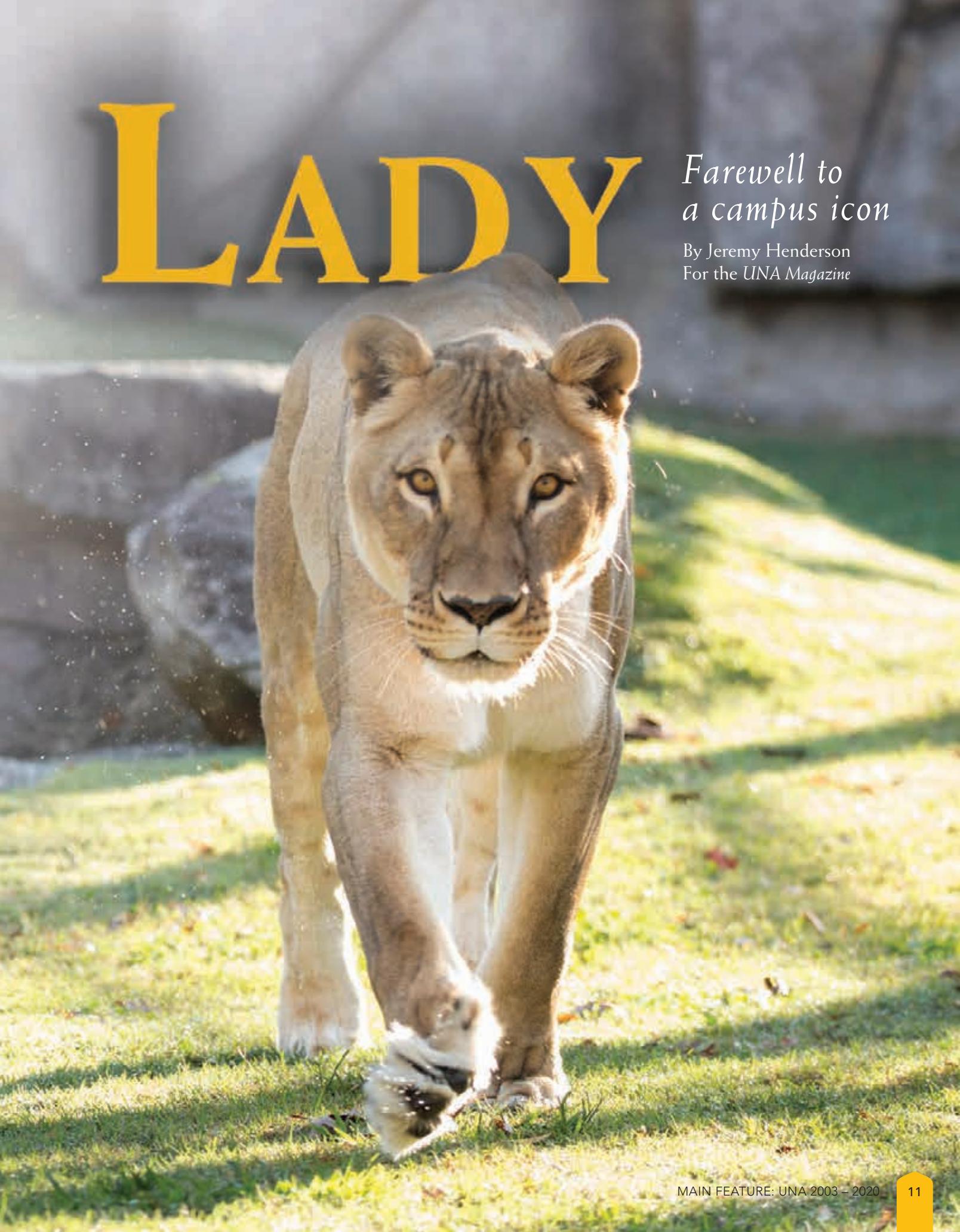
Within days, video of Marie Waxel coming face-to-terrified-face with a 300-pound African lion was everywhere. The U.K.'s Daily Mirror. Rolling Stone. The Dodo. Even the Huffington Post.

"This lion is our new best friend," wrote the media editor for the most-trafficked viral content site in the country. "How many times have you tried to sneak up on someone and failed miserably? It's not easy. Next time, just take a lesson from this guy..."

It wasn't a guy. It wasn't Leo — it was Una.

It was so Una...

LADY

A large, light-colored lioness stands in a sunlit grassy field. She is positioned in the center of the frame, facing forward with a slightly downward gaze. Her mane is well-groomed and light-colored. The background is blurred, showing more of the same grassy landscape under bright sunlight.

*Farewell to
a campus icon*

By Jeremy Henderson
For the UNA Magazine



"We had either just given her a vaccine, or maybe we had drawn blood, but she walked out of the squeeze cage and walked right up to Leo and just slapped him in the face. It was like, 'How dare you let them do this to me?'"

That's Dr. Brandon Fisher, owner of Fisher Animal Hospital on Cox Creek Parkway, on his favorite Una moment in the 11 years he's spent as one of the lions' two local vets.

"They were definitely different and distinct," he said. "Una was quite a bit more difficult. She was much more vocal about her displeasure."

His second favorite moment?

"Yeah, probably when she scared the snot out of the reporter."

Not that he was there for it. "But it was just typical Una," he said. "That was just her. She would stalk you."

If you want to learn how to bask in the sun, you watch Leo, king of the jungle. If you wanted to learn about a lion's hunting instincts, you watched Una, queen of the habitat.

"Una's mind was constantly racing," Fisher said. "She was constantly sizing people up."

And despite 17 years of watching adoring crowds and



unsuspecting reporters through a fence, Fisher said it was obvious that she never saw anyone as anything other than lunch.

Except two people. Except her parents.



It's early Tuesday afternoon. Anne and Dan Howard are at the George H. Carroll Lion Habitat right now. They've been there since 7 a.m. If they're lucky, they'll head home around 4 p.m. Maybe later. They'll be there tomorrow. And the next day. And the day after that. They were there on Thanksgiving, like always. They'll be there on Christmas, like always. Sometimes they're even there all night. For free. It's all volunteer. It's been that way since the couple was in their 50s. They're in their 70s now.

She laughs.

"You didn't know you were talking to two crazy people did you?"

I laugh.

"How did you even get involved with all this? How did y'all become their caretakers?"

She answers like it's a question that's never needed asking.

"Well, Dan walked in the door with two cat carriers and said 'here they are.'"

In other words, she fell in love.

It was late 2002. Dan was UNA's Vice President for Advancement. Leo II had passed away in January. Dan was on the committee to find not a replacement, but, for the first time, replacements — plural.

Food, shelter, medical care, love? That had never

been a problem. Not for Leo I in the '70s and '80s, not for Leo II in the '80s and '90s. And Lord knows it wouldn't be for Leo III. The university had recently partnered with the Carroll family to build a \$1.3 million state-of-the-art habitat that, in terms of lion luxuries, Dan told reporters he'd put up against any zoo in the country.

But in making the decision to continue the school's beloved live mascot tradition, the big cat experts consulted by the committee were in agreement. For the next Leo to live his best life, he'd need more than a pond and a waterfall and a stream, more than climate control — he'd need a friend.

"Imagine going your whole life without seeing another human being," Dan said.

But there was a catch. That friend couldn't be another male — one would dominate the other. And it couldn't be a mate — too many complications.

Siblings — they needed siblings, a brother and a sister. And after months of searching, they found them on 81 beautiful acres in Greenville, New Hampshire, at the acclaimed Greenville Wildlife Park — twin six-week-old fuzzballs born to African lions Garth and Eileen that changed Anne Howard's life forever.

Two hours of sleep, then an hour of feeding. Repeat for six months. No trips to the grocery store. No nights out on the town. Sometimes Dan might pick something up on the way home from Harrison Plaza and they would eat takeout and try to watch TV over the giant cage in the middle of the living room. Then they would move to the kitchen — tile



UNA'S HISTORY OF LIONS

APRIL 14, 1973
Leo I born in Knoxville, TN
at a wildlife refuge.

1974 - 1988
Leo I builds our tradition of having
a live mascot on campus.

JULY 1988
Leo II comes to UNA.



JULY 22, 1974
Leo I comes to UNA. Brought
to UNA by President Guillot.



JANUARY 20, 1988
Leo I passes away.



handled the accidents better than hard wood — and prepare the bottles.

"Dan would feed Leo, I would feed Una," Anne says. "Leo inhaled his bottle. Una ate like a little lady."

And ate, and ate, and ate. In mid-2003, it was time.

Anne and Dan helped move them into their new home, and then never stopped coming over for visits. Taking care of two lions was going to be an amazing job; somebody had to do it. That was 17 wonderful years ago.

But since June, it's been different. They've been staying at the habitat longer. Sometimes until 6. Sometimes until 8. They don't mind. They've never minded. There's a kitchen. And Anne and Dan have a couple of folding chairs, a card table, a minifridge full of Diet Cokes. But now they have just the one lion, who still isn't quite the same.



Dr. Matthew Connolly owns Connolly Animal Clinic on Florence Boulevard, which is where Anne and Dan would take their house cat, Woodsy. In 2002, when Dan asked Connolly how he'd feel about getting a couple of new patients, his eyes got big.

"It was like, 'How do you pass up an opportunity like that?'"

He and Dan flew up to New Hampshire on the private plane of one of the many local benefactors who have helped run the university's lion program entirely on donations and sponsorships since Day One.

"That wildlife park was an amazing place," he said. "You know, Disney World actually wanted Leo

and Una for the Animal Kingdom. But the owner thought they would have a better home at UNA."

In the early days, he'd go over to the Howards' for house calls. He'd weigh the lions, make sure they were growing properly, and ask if Woodsy was still hiding out upstairs.

"It's funny," Connolly said. "They're obviously bigger, but as far as their physiology, lions are pretty much just like house cats."

Which is why, in June, he and Fisher at first thought it might have been her kidneys. That's typically how it happens with cats, big or small — renal failure. That's what it was for Leo II.



Jeff Hodges knows there's always talk about whether or not to continue the tradition. There was when Leo I passed in 1988. There was when Leo II passed in 2002. He's been around for all of it. In his mind, the right decision was made every time, no question.

"They live a tremendous life here," he said. "They're born in captivity, and they do as well here as they'd do anywhere. They're loved."

Hodges came to UNA as a student in 1980. In 1983, at just 22, he became the school's first full-time sports information director. The lions always made his job a little easier.

The only school in the country with a live lion mascot on campus? Come game day, you couldn't ask for a better talking point to feed to an opponent's broadcast crew.

"It doesn't matter who we're playing, almost to a team, that's one of the things that they'll talk about on the radio," Hodges said. "The lions."

APRIL 28, 1997
Leo II named "Second Best
Mascot" by Sports Illustrated.



2002
George H. Carroll habitat
built on UNA campus.



MARCH 2, 2000
Leo II passes away.

NOVEMBER 18, 2002
Leo III and Una ("You-na") born in
New Hampshire.

In the early 2000s, it got even better. Because of her.

"Oh my gosh, the response from the community just went to a whole new level," Hodges said. "It was just so cool that we had two of them — that we had Una, too."



The first suggestion was actually Leona. Leo and Leona. It'd be cute. But there were a couple of issues.

For starters, it was too similar. Anne and Dan — speaking from personal experience — knew it would be too confusing, too hard for the lions to distinguish.

Leonetta? Still too close. Besides, the idea wasn't to have a female Leo. The idea was that she would be a lion all her own. Her own name. Her own personality. Along those lines, she never let Anne down.

"I have a video of Una going over and biting Leo on his tail," Anne said. "She wouldn't let go, and he actually started dragging her around. She would pester him to no end."

Early this summer, she stopped. She wasn't catching squirrels. She wasn't charging the fence at stray dogs. She wasn't giving Leo a hard time. The spark wasn't there. She was starting to eat less.

Researchers monitoring her in the wild might not have thought anything of it. The lifespan of a lion is 16 to 18 years. But in captivity? They can live up to 25. Anne picked up the phone.

Connolly and Fisher came out. Una growled when she saw them, same as always.

Connolly smiles.

"They hated seeing us."

The blood work came back fine. It wasn't

diabetes. It wasn't renal failure.

A week or so later, Anne called again. Una hadn't improved. If anything, she was worse. Her breathing was labored.

This time, Fisher brought his portable ultrasound. Anne and Dan led Una into the cage. Fisher turned on the machine and held it to her chest.

There were only so many things that would cause that amount of fluid. It was liters.

They filled a syringe, took it back to Fisher's office, and put it under a microscope. They looked at each other. They sent samples to their alma maters — Connolly went to Auburn, Fisher went to Mississippi State — for confirmation.



The decision was excruciating. But it wasn't really a decision. Fisher and Connolly compared notes — with each other, with specialists. They explained it the best they could — to Anne and Dan, to members of the administration. For a 17-year-old lion, there's no coming back from mesothelioma. No fixing it. No treatment beyond draining as much fluid as possible, helping her breathe better, keeping her comfortable. That was all they could do with the time they had left, and there wouldn't be much.

Everyone agreed.

They kept it quiet and decided on Tuesday, June 30. Connolly and Fisher met early that morning. They drove to the habitat. Anne and Dan were there. They'd spent the night.

Una growled. Leo looked on.

"He was right there," Connolly said. "I think he knew something was wrong with her."



2003

Leo III and Una move into the George H. Carroll habitat.



2002 - PRESENT

Anne Howard begins caring for Leo III and Una and remains their primary caregiver.

JUNE 30, 2020

Una, the beloved female mascot of the University of North Alabama, passed away peacefully Tuesday, June 30th, 2020, after a brief illness at the George H. Carroll Lion Habitat on the UNA campus. She was 17. Una's passing was peaceful, and her brother and caregivers were at her side.





"I'm kind of getting choked up just thinking about it."
They led her into the cage one last time. She didn't fight it.

They took her out after sedating her. It didn't take long.

After giving Anne and Dan some time with her, Una's two veterinarians loaded her onto a horse trailer with help from the facilities' staff and started for Starkville. Mississippi's State College of Veterinary Medicine was going to let them assist with the necropsy.

They found what they knew they would.

"It was about the size of a football," Fisher says of the tumor.



In 2016, she took a job as a weekend anchor in Shreveport, and it's literally the first thing you see in the Meet Marie video the station made for her — Una bearing down on that red jacket.

"I was a YouTube sensation there for a while," Waxel told her new viewers.

In 2018, she returned to Alabama for a morning anchor position at WAAY. No one had forgotten.

"Oh yeah," she said. "It still comes up."

On June 30, at around 9 a.m., she saw the email. The digital producer posted the press release with quotes from President Kitts to the website. Marie started getting texts. Oh no. Have you heard?

"It was really upsetting to hear," she said. "I think we were the first station in North Alabama with the news."

And Marie Waxel was the one who reported it.

She looked into the camera during her 11 a.m. broadcast and announced that Una, the University of North Alabama's beloved female lion, had died.



Anne can't talk about it much.

"Well, we couldn't let her suffer," she said. "So I lost my baby girl."

But, in a sense, the world still has her.

"Her case is actually a part of a larger study Mississippi State is doing on large cats," Fisher said. "They've actually written up a nice report on what they found during the necropsy."

That report has already been presented at a couple of conferences.

"Part of the mission of the lions was education," Connolly said. "So in a way, she's still fulfilling that purpose."

In other words, the University of North Alabama's first female lion lives on.

So does her brother.

Leo lost weight after he lost Una. He became almost reclusive. But Anne and Dan say things are slowly getting back to normal. He's getting his appetite back. He's walking around the habitat a little more. You have a better chance of spotting him on the LionCam than you did, say, in July or August.

But the one thing that's still different is his roar. She and Dan might be the only one who can tell, but it's changed, Anne said.

"He's looking for her," she said. "He's calling her."



Commencement looked a little different this year thanks to the ongoing global pandemic. The spring and summer ceremonies were combined over two days in late July and early August and took place in Norton Auditorium. Students were able to have a maximum of five family members attend with them, and members of the UNA campus community took extraordinary measures to ensure the health and safety of all participants.

Graduates and visitors had their temperature checked before entry into the venue, and each graduate received a piece of Harrison Fountain along with an Alumni Association t-shirt and their Diorama. Each also received a UNA-branded face covering to wear during the ceremony.

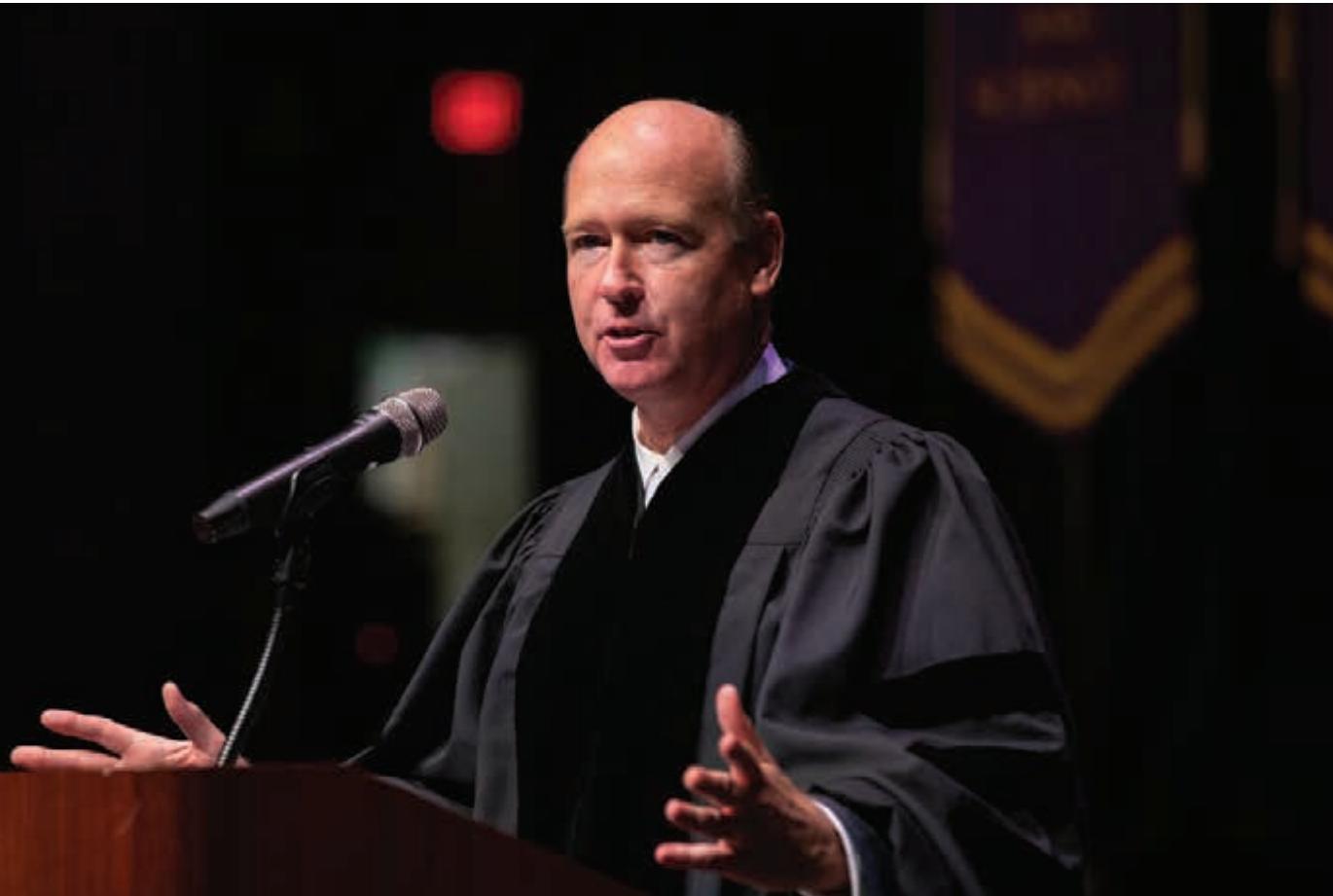
Congressman Robert Aderholt, whose district includes the University, provided the



Commencement with a Twist

commencement address to four of the six ceremonies. Dr. Ernestine Davis, a professor emeritus from the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions, provided the address for the remaining two ceremonies. For the first time in UNA history, each of the six ceremonies was live streamed via the University's YouTube channel for external audiences who were unable to attend in person.

Even with health and safety guidelines in place, hundreds of graduates received their diplomas and have joined the growing ranks of UNA's alumni network.





An educator and musician leaves a strong legacy of professionalism and humor

Dr. Edd Jones is fondly remembered by family and friends

By Molly Kirkpatrick | For the *UNA Magazine*

Above all else, Dr. Edd Jones was known on the University of North Alabama campus and in the broader community for his passion for education and music. He combined those passions as the Director of Bands at UNA for almost 22 years – beginning his tenure at UNA in 1978 and retiring in 2002.

He stayed on at UNA in an unofficial capacity to help the students and bring laughter and years of experience to the band. As a result of those years and his many accomplishments in leading the band, he left a strong legacy in the community as well as with everyone who was lucky enough to have been a part of his long and storied career.

"He was an educator, through and through," said Dr. Lloyd Jones, director of Bands at UNA and Edd Jones' son. "And he was a musician through and through. His favorite place he could ever be was with his students."

"He was an educator, through and through."

Known lovingly as Dr. Edd by his many, many students, it wasn't unusual for him to have lunch with them in downtown Florence at one of his favorite spots, Trowbridge's Ice Cream and Sandwich Bar. Students and their well-being were among Dr. Edd's top priorities, so, along with the learning, he formed friendships with them as well.

According to Dr. Lloyd Jones, his father taught non-stop from 1961 after his graduation from Elmore County High School. Before taking on his role at UNA, Dr. Jones was band director at Opelika High School and then of his high school alma mater, Elmore County.

Without question, Dr. Edd had an understanding of show business. Aside from being a musical educator, Dr. Edd was a professional musician himself. He valued bringing show business into the educational experience in order to help his students learn how to more effectively present any program they were leading.



According to Dr. Eric Kirkman, who had known Dr. Edd since Dr. Kirkman's days in high school, Dr. Edd was disciplined and had an outstanding work ethic; furthermore, he was a highly effective leader in the band room.

"Whenever we go somewhere to play and rehearse, I always do it like how he wanted it done," said Dr. Kirkman, who is the director of Kilby Laboratory School by day and front man for the Kirkman Combo by night. "He taught me so much about professionalism. Being early for gigs, giving yourself time, little things like that. The biggest way he impacted me was developing in me a work ethic and high expectations and professionalism."

Even people who did not get the chance to work with Dr. Edd professionally knew of his exceptional work ethic. Dr. David McCullough, a professor and coordinator of Brass Studies for the Department of Music, recalled Dr. Edd's notable legacy.

"His legacy is evident in the success of his students and in the field of band directors," said Dr. McCullough. "He had a personality that built respect in people, then that respect turned into admiration and, for a lack of a better word, love."

People who worked with Dr. Edd, including Dr. Kirkman, have countless anecdotes that illustrate just how dedicated and caring he was toward the people around him.

"One of the best qualities of Dr. Edd was a caring heart. He was a blessing to those around him," said Dr. Kirkman. "One of the most profound lessons that Dr. Jones taught me was how to give. And how to be a blessing to others. If you have it and somebody needs it, give it."

Not only was Dr. Edd exceptional at directing and educating, he also made people laugh; it was one of his most endearing qualities, according to his son. In fact, one of the fondest memories was when the band room became the practice location thanks to a sudden rain shower.

"Everyone was soaked," said Dr. Lloyd Jones. "We ran back to the band room to dry off. Dr. Jones then came out of his office in a too small shirt, sticking to him because of still being wet and brushing his nonexistent hair. He just had a way with people."



And the BAND PLAYED ON

Safety precautions were paramount but the UNA Band still took to the field

By Molly Kirkpatrick
For the UNA Magazine

The University of North Alabama's band is something to behold. The band is known for its intricate, innovative, and entertaining field performances as well as those that take place on stage as part of concerts. Within the marching band are the UNA Majorettes, Lionettes dance-line, and Color Guard. It's not unusual for folks to travel from other areas to see the band perform.

This year, however, and as a result of the global pandemic, the UNA Band, and all of its entities, from concert to marching, was not unaffected. Still, according to those in the department, it was vital for the band to perform and have a presence both on and off campus.

"We want to make the [football] games enjoyable despite the COVID-19 crisis," said Dr. Lloyd Jones, Director of Bands. "We have high standards, and we surpassed those standards with safety and precautions."

The band is doing everything and then some to protect the members at all costs, he said, including meeting the protocol of social distancing, wearing cloth face coverings, and even a 4-step mask-up call during which all marching band members must replace their face coverings once they're four steps off the field.

"We are taking a lot of extra precautions," said Courtney Jones, former band member and Dr. Jones's assistant. "We have options. We care about our band members and everyone involved. There have been challenges, but the band has excelled at making things work."

In addition to health and safety protocols on the field and during practices, Courtney Jones said there are extra measures in place.

"When we carpool to places, we make sure to keep people in pods," she said. "We stick to the same people riding together to make sure we keep contact down."

One of the initial changes implemented as a result of Covid took place during band camp. Band camp is a chance for marching band students to return to campus early in order to learn routines and music they'll be





performing as part of half-time shows and at other athletic events throughout the year.

"We always get lunch after practice every day, together," Courtney Jones said. "But this year, we split into three groups and went to lunch separately so we could abide by the protocols to keep people separated. And we even continue that now."

This year, there are no band competitions. Luckily, local high schools are allowing the UNA Band to perform at halftime. It's something that has provided a sense of normalcy for the band students, and it also serves as a recruiting tool for UNA.

"We obviously haven't been able to travel, but by doing this, we are still able to get our show out there," said Courtney Jones. "At our only home game, we weren't able to do a half-time show or a pregame show. But Athletics asked us to do a post-game show that let us perform for our home crowd and home stadium."

The pandemic abbreviated the football schedule as well, which meant that the UNA Lions played a single game in Braly Stadium.

As the band typically practices outside, social distancing is a given and allows some room for the members to practice in a way that keeps health and safety at the forefront for the band members.

"We want the game to be enjoyable," said Dr. Jones. "As soon as the ensemble doesn't have a horn to their mouth, masks are up. As soon as the auxiliary gets to four steps, the mask is up."

This year's band performance included some riffs on well-known hits from the 1970s and 1980s, including "My Corona," which is a take on "My Sharona" by The Knack. They also performed "U Can't Touch This" by MC Hammer. It's safe to say that, although the band may have been affected by the COVID-19 crisis just as everyone else, they are not letting this affect the quality of their performance.



On the MOVE

Chase Fernandez, Rachel Jo Pierce, Abigail Gilbert, Rebekah Matthews, Bryce Austin, and Dean Vince Brewton

From the springboard of the Honors College, students and alumni are making their mark

By Dr. Vince Brewton | For the UNA Magazine

The year 2020 has brought many challenges to our work in the Honors College as well as some encouraging milestones, including passing the fifteen-year mark of Honors education at UNA. Read on for a brief sketch of our journey, a profile of 2010 graduate Ashton Puckett Glover who returns to campus as a faculty member, and some exciting current student highlights.

Where We Are: Honors enrollment surpassed 500 students, and we brought to campus our largest freshman class ever – 155 new students representing 11 states, numerous career paths, and eight different varsity sports.

Where We've Been: Since 2005, more than 350 students have completed our rigorous requirements to become Honors Program or Honors College graduates. Our thanks go to President Dr. Ken Kitts and Provost Dr. Ross Alexander for supporting the transition from Honors Program to Honors College.

Where We Are Going: As UNA grows toward an enrollment of 10,000, the Honors College will continue to attract talented undergraduates to participate in a full on-campus college experience. Facility upgrades to our Lafayette Honors College home are in the planning phase, and our enrollment target of 600 students by 2022 is within reach.



Alumni Spotlight

The Honors College is excited to welcome back Honors graduate Ashton Puckett Glover, '10, who joined the faculty this fall as assistant professor in the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions. Ashton is married to Dax Glover '10, and they have two sons: Bo Taylor (5) and John Maddax (2).

We caught up with Ashton for a Q&A about her experience at UNA and her new role.

Q: How did you choose UNA?

A: From the moment I stepped on campus as a high school senior, I fell in love with the atmosphere, the culture, and the people.

Q: Why nursing?

A: I always knew I wanted to work in healthcare. I liked the diversity that a career in nursing could offer, and I wanted to be actively involved serving patients at the bedside.

Q: How did you benefit from the Honors Program?

A: I really had no idea how much I would gain. As a result of the Honors Program, I was challenged academically and prepared for graduate school.

Q: Tell us about your role in the ACONHP.

A: I teach in the Family Nurse Practitioner graduate program and also practice as an emergency nurse practitioner at Magnolia Regional Health Center in Corinth, Mississippi.

Q: Plans for the future?

A: My goal is to prepare exceptional graduate nurses and to grow as a faculty member in the ACONHP.

IN BRIEF

Honors Fulbright Award

Honors College graduate **Brandon Sanders, '19**, was selected this summer as a Fulbright Scholar to South Korea. Brandon plans to pursue a career in the U.S. Foreign Service.

Honors Research and Experiential Learning Highlights

- Senior Honors Kinesiology major **Andrea Bryant** led a team of 11 undergraduate and graduate students in a study of stress hormones in firefighters that is the first of its kind in the world.
- Senior Honors Culinary major **Brittany Cummings** has worked behind the scenes on numerous UNA events, including *Lions Under the Lights* and the *George Lindsey Festival*. Brittany's long-term plan is to open her own family-friendly soul food restaurant.
- Senior **Chase Fernandez**, a member of the UNA Bass Fishing Team, is studying the abundance and diversity of fishes in Cypress and Cox creeks for his Honors senior project.
- Honors Senior Kinesiology major **Maria Mask's** caffeine study will be published in an international journal with Maria as lead author.
- Honors Senior **Lyndsey Tarver** co-authored an article with Dr. Michael Stocz in Sports and Recreation Management that examined risk management in high school wrestling and was published in the *Journal of Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance*. Lyndsey is an intern with the Rocket City Trash Pandas minor league baseball team.
- Honors Junior **Elaina Ingle** is pursuing a full-time internship with AST Environmental, monitoring bio-diversity impacts on behalf of Mazda-Toyota at their new manufacturing facility in Huntsville.
- An **Honors Junior Communications major** was selected for a prestigious FBI Internship at bureau headquarters in Washington D.C. Because of the pandemic, the internship was completed at the Huntsville FBI offices. While security clearance procedures do not allow release of the student's name, the Honors College is extraordinarily proud of this accomplishment.



JaQualia Bunch '19



Jake Statom and Daniel Green





Celebrating 150

Sesquicentennial spotlights year women admitted to UNA

By Jeremy Henderson | For the *UNA Magazine*

On Sept. 12, 1963, Wendell Gunn walked onto campus to become the first African-American student to enroll at the University of North Alabama. Fifty years later to the day, he walked back onto campus a hero, and an inspiration — in more ways than one.

"I think that's when it began," said Jeffrey Bibbee, professor of history and associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "Unlike a lot of schools in the South, integration at UNA went peacefully, so I think in 2013 we saw what could be possible in terms of tooting our own horn."

Bibbee was part of the task force commissioned to honor Gunn during a week-long commemoration that included a diversity breakfast and a conference on race and education, and that culminated with Gunn serving as keynote speaker for the University's fall convocation.



"That was such a beneficial experience for the history department," Bibbee said. "It was really cool that we had an individual that we could focus on and acknowledge. It was definitely a success" — a success that members of the task force wanted to repeat.

"After honoring the legacy of Dr. Gunn, we realized that the 150th anniversary of the admittance of women at UNA would be coming up soon," Bibbee says. "We were the first coeducational school south of the Ohio river. That should be a huge point of pride."

As vice chair of the task force already organizing to commemorate the sesquicentennial of coeducation at the University of North Alabama, Bibbee is doing his best to make sure others feel the same.

"UNA hasn't been the best at celebrating ourselves and celebrating our achievements, but we're getting better," Bibbee said. "It's great to remind ourselves that we were at the forefront of some really transformative moments not just for the institution, but for the state and even the region."

Though female students didn't enroll in the university until 1874, UNA officially opened its doors to women in 1872 — 18 years before Auburn University, 19 years before the University of Alabama.

Bibbee said the university plans to memorialize the milestone throughout the 2021-22 academic calendar with several unique events, including a lecture series

"We were the first coeducational school south of the Ohio river. That should be a huge point of pride."

and a celebration of the life of Una, the university's first female mascot, who died June 30 at age 17.

"We're going to be employing several grad students in the history department to research and provide the material that we need," Bibbee said. "The idea is for each of our academic units, departments, and offices to know what and who their firsts were, and to have as many as possible incorporate that theme into their instruction and their mission."

In Bibbee's mind, part of that theme is generational.

"There are so many stories to share, and we've found that many of those stories span generations," he said. "So many women who have come here have connections dating maybe even back to their great-grandmother. We want to celebrate those stories and achievements and use them to inspire the next generation of students, just like Dr. Gunn did."



WIDE OPEN



SPACES

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA SIMULATION LABORATORY

Harrison Hall welcomes ACONHP

By Michelle Rupe Eubanks '96 | For the UNA Magazine

It's a brisk fall morning on the University of North Alabama campus. Movers are hauling boxes and pushing carts from Stevens Hall to the newly opened Harrison Hall, which is home to the Anderson College of Nursing and Health Professions. It's tedious, cumbersome work, but it's a sunny day, and the move is on track to be finished quickly.

Good thing, too, because faculty, staff, and students are ready to occupy the space that's been coming out of the ground where Floyd Science Building was for the past 24 months.

Once in the front doors that face Pine Street, the space opens itself wide to all comers. It's spacious, bright, welcoming. And that's by design.

"This gives them the room to grow that they've desired for years," said Michael Gautney, assistant vice president for Facilities Administration and Planning. Previously, ACONHP "had been crammed into Stevens, and Harrison Hall has given them more space and more offices so they can accommodate their online faculty, too."

**"This gives them
the room to
grow that they've
desired for years."**

Since their inception in the 1970s, ACONHP occupied a single floor and a portion of another in Stevens Hall, which they shared with the College of Education and Human Sciences. Faculty meetings were crammed and hybridized for on-campus and online faculty. The pinning ceremony, a rite of passage for graduating seniors, had also taken place in Stevens Hall auditorium, but they'd outgrown it, too. It was time for a new space, maybe a little overdue, in fact, so Harrison Hall does exactly what Gautney suggests: gives ACONHP room to grow, to breathe a bit, and to become a state-of-the-art center for educating the next generation of healthcare professionals.

It's with that goal in mind that Vicki Pierce, dean of the ACONHP, enters her sixth year in that role.

"Gosh, I began working on this building with former Dean Dr. Birdie Bailey," Pierce said. "So it's been a long time coming."

Those boxes the movers are carting across campus have been packed and ready since the summer, standing by in corners and out-of-the-way spaces, but ready, nonetheless, for the big day. Now that it's here and she and others are moved in, it feels a little surreal, she said.

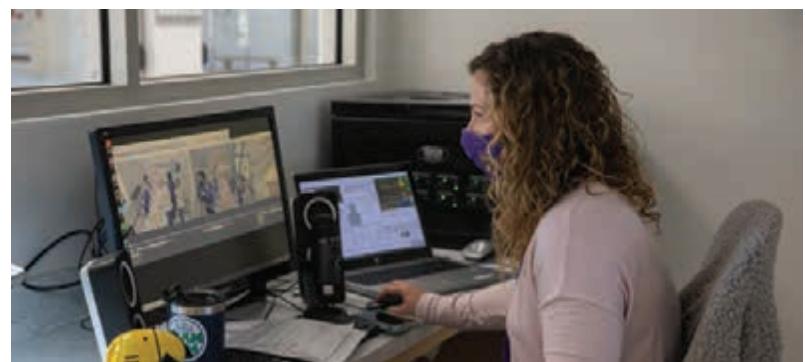
"A lot went into getting us where we are

today," Pierce said. "And now it's our new home, and it's a fabulous facility with modern equipment and technology available for faculty, staff, and student use."

Pierce, along with Gautney, have been on the front end of the work, Pierce paying especial attention to how Harrison Hall would be branded as well as laid out in order to maximize its use. She visited nursing buildings and facilities on other campuses and at hospitals, and those visits paid dividends when it came to the design of the top floor and why it mimics a hospital setting.

"I really wanted the students to feel as though they were in a clinical simulation when they were on that floor," she said. "But I also wanted them to know they were on the UNA campus; I didn't want them to question where they were. Instead, I wanted them feel proud of attending ACONHP at UNA and that it has an excellent tradition as a long-standing institution in the state."

There is no question that Harrison Hall is on the UNA campus. Chair backs are branded with the official University logo. Accent walls of purple and gold help establish wayfinding inside the wide and spacious halls; murals depict the College through time, establishing its history



and place among the top nursing institutions in Alabama on the oldest four-year campus in the state.

"When I became Dean, Dr. Bailey left an outstanding legacy and was a tremendous leader," Pierce said. "So I feel like I had big shoes to fill in moving the College up to the next level. She had a vision that she imparted to me, and I felt responsible to see that vision through. When I retire, at whatever point that may be, I also want the College to be on a trajectory to continually do better."

What does that "better" look like?

It's already gotten a start in the equipment now being used in Harrison Hall, much of which, including the simulation infant, is the first in the United States to be used in a clinical education setting. The result is that the clinical settings are uber-realistic and keep the ACONHP ahead of the curve.

"We even installed a call system at the nursing station on the top floor so that those students can really operate as a nursing team would in the clinical setting," Pierce said. "There's also space for the students in the family nurse practitioner program, which includes a lab, so they have what they need to learn those advanced nursing skills."

Simulation is critical, Pierce said, because, outside of the clinics students do in the hospital or healthcare setting, it's the closest they'll get to practicing their skills before graduation and finding their first jobs. Still, the support ACONHP offers doesn't stop once the students have passed their boards.

"We also have a new micro-credential in healthcare simulation that's designed for health professionals who teach in their hospitals, which helps the professional and it ensures that hospital employees are current on the latest technology," Pierce said. "We want to partner with hospitals so they can see how we can help train their nurses to be successful."

Further, Pierce said she wants to see the ACONHP take full advantage of the last two letters of their acronym, the Health Professions part of their name, as a means to promote healthcare in general. Now that Harrison Hall is open and occupied, it seems that will be next on her to-do list.

"That seems to be what my objective was all along," she said. "I needed to be in the space to see what we needed and how we could grow and continue our path forward. Having this facility, having this new space, certainly gives us what we need to make our programs even stronger."



What a difference 191 years makes!

Through several name changes (and a migration from across the river) the University and the COEHS have continued to improve

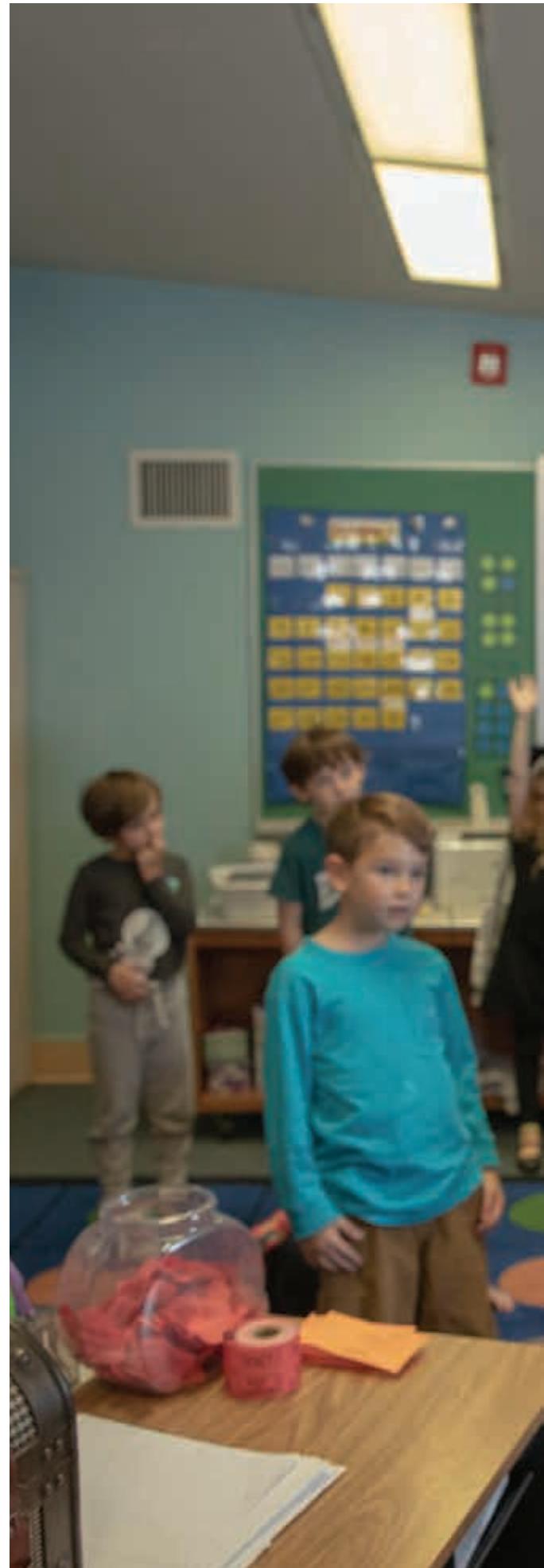
By Molly Kirkpatrick
For the UNA Magazine

As the state's oldest four-year public university, it's no secret that the University of North Alabama has a long and storied history. The institution opened as LaGrange College in 1830 in Leighton in Colbert County. In late 1854, and during the course of three short days and via caravan, no less, LaGrange College moved across the Tennessee River to a high spot on North Court Street in Florence.

What many people don't know, however, is that the University of North Alabama can trace its roots to an idea proffered at a meeting during the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in November of 1826. The idea was simple and would establish a college that would not be "religious or theological." From those earliest days, another entity was born, a grammar school known as the Kilby Professional Laboratory School. Kilby has been training teachers in real classroom settings since 1850 and is, today, the last remaining university-owned and -operated lab school in Alabama.

After the move across the river, the institution became known as the State Normal School at Florence, when the Methodist Church deeded the institution to the state in 1872. The State Normal School became the first state-supported teachers college south of the Ohio River. Although the institution immediately began admitting women, none would attend until 1874 when 31 women enrolled. It wasn't until 1879 that the first woman joined the faculty.

For more than 50 years, the school functioned as a normal school, until 1929 when the institution was renamed Florence State Teachers College as it offered a four-year curriculum in elementary education. It is fair to say that the goal of the College of Education and Human Sciences was then, and still is today, to train educators in the art of teaching. The faculty and staff take a great deal of pride in the history of the College and their profession.







“The faculty makes our college special, and our students are so resilient.”

“Teaching is a passion,” said Dr. Matt Green, associate dean of the COEHS. “It feeds a passion. If you have a passion for teaching, you never work a day in your life. Teaching is rewarding beyond any description.”

From those early and humble beginnings in Colbert County, the University had grown throughout the 1800s and 1900s, and it needed a name to reflect the more regional nature of its programs and academic offerings. As a result, the name was changed once more, this time in August of 1974 when it became the University of North Alabama.

“We started as an institution to prepare teachers, and I am proud of the College. We have had many successful teachers come from UNA,” said Dr. Katie Kinney, Dean of the COEHS. “Our faculty just genuinely care about our students and their success. I could tell story after story. The faculty makes our college special, and our students are so resilient. They do it all, and they do it well. The things they learn in our program they use in real life.”

The programs included in the COEHS have certainly evolved from those days early on in its history, but they all have the same goal: to train educators for any role they may choose to take on in an education setting.

“We have so many diverse programs in our college. We don’t just prepare teachers,” said Dr. Kinney, referring to why she believes students continue to choose UNA and the COEHS for their degree.

The COEHS includes Counselor Education, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Instructional Leadership, Secondary Education, Special Education, Teacher Leadership, Exercise Science, and Sport and Recreation Management, among others.

“I want people to find what their passion is,” said Dr. Kinney. “We want them to have all of the tools to be successful. You won’t find a more caring faculty. Students will have so many opportunities to get experience outside the classroom that will enrich their

experiences for when they go into their field.”

Fortunately, the College has a long track record of success, particularly when it comes to its graduates, among whom may be counted an Alabama Teacher of the Year as well as many other highly successful and regarded men and women in their fields.

Still, with such a long history, there are bound to be some rough patches. One hiccup of note took place during the Civil War. Records from that time indicate that, in 1861, just 31 years after the opening, four professors and more than 100 students left the school to go fight in the war. A further note to this history is that Wesleyan Hall, the only building the college had at the time, was occupied by both Union and Confederate armies at various times.

It can be easy to forget this history in the modern era when change comes so quickly, particularly on a college campus that is today vibrant, home to thousands of students, and trains not just future teachers, but future healthcare workers, engineers, and many, many others. The roots in education, however, run deep, and that, according to Dr. Green, speaks to UNA’s early days perhaps more than anything.

“When you think of UNA you often think that it is the place where people go to be trained to be teachers,” said Dr. Green. “That brand has stuck around though all these years and all these name changes, and it continues to resonate with incoming freshmen and others who want to teach.”

The COEHS may be a bit different than it was when the institution first opened its doors in 1830, but some things will never change. The faculty in the COEHS has always had success in producing educators and professionals, and it will continue to do so as long as there are students with a passion to teach.

The University of North Alabama has grown tremendously since opening as LaGrange College, and with the growth came many new colleges and opportunities. However, the COEHS will always be special and buzzing with stories of the past while looking toward the future.

Experience is springboard to an advanced degree for EDBA students

College of Business offers curricular and instructional innovation in new doctoral program

By Guy McClure '84 | For the UNA Magazine

The University of North Alabama is now a doctoral-granting institution and will welcome its first cohort of students into the Executive Doctor of Business Administration (EDBA) program through the College of Business. Among the first cohort are small business owners, executives, and innovators who want to continue to work full-time while completing a doctoral degree. That's how the EDBA at UNA was designed. It also gives business leaders an opportunity to further their current careers, gain knowledge, and reach their own learning goals.

This initial class of students said they chose the EDBA program at UNA for its adaptability to their own busy lives and work schedules. They also share a number of commonalities, including their love of higher education, their drive for success, and their active and busy careers.

Here's a closer look at these 14 students:



Andre'a Streeter is a business transformation consultant for VMWARE. Andre'a is a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and she studied Mechanical Engineering at Tennessee State University, an Historically Black University in Nashville, Tenn. She is a professional with engineering and business experience across multiple industries, having started her career at NASA designing the heating and cooling systems for the International Space Station.



Brian L. Morgan is a director of sales for UPS. Brian began his career with UPS in 1989 in Muscle Shoals while enrolled at the University of North Alabama. A career highlight for Brian was the responsibility of building the blueprint and leading a team to develop UPS's Sales School.



Chad Ward serves as the Director of Future Technology with Iron Mountain Solutions, Inc., and serves as a Senior Program Advisor to the Project Executive Office – Aviation and the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) on future technologies and programs.



Daniel C. Mullens is a qualifying broker for Engel & Völkers Shoals. Daniel has worked in the real estate industry for more than 15 years and is the luxury broker of Engel & Völkers Shoals. He has served on the Board of Coalition of At-Risk Minority Males (COARMM) and as a judge for the annual Beautillion Ball.



Daniel Fike is an operations officer for Alabama Medical Detachment in Birmingham. Daniel is an English language instructor and 30-year veteran of the US Army.



George Nkosi works for the Internal Revenue Service as an Internal Revenue Agent in the Large Business and International division. He conducts examinations and related investigations of income tax returns that cover a diversified spectrum of taxpayers, to include corporations, partnerships, foreign entities, individuals, and fiduciaries.



Ken Delgreco is the Senior Manager of Rocket Engine Production at the private aerospace manufacturer and spaceflight company, Blue Origin. During his career, he has worked at the intersection of engineering and business for several large corporations, including General Motors, AGC Inc., and Eberspacher Exhaust Technology.



Michael McClure is the Vice President of Reimbursement and Health Economics with Teleflex Inc. While most of his jobs have been in finance and operations, he is passionate about the clinical side of healthcare.



Rong Min is the Chief Operating Officer for Global Track with oversight of the manufacturing facilities alongside the North American, United Kingdom, and Oceania markets.



Russell Sanders is the President of FactoryMation. He has a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Tech and a master's degree in Business Administration from Georgia State University. All of his professional experience has been in the industrial automation sector with positions that include product design, application engineering, sales management, and business development.



Seth Thompson is the Deputy Director of Proposals at Science and Engineering Services (SES). Since completing his MBA at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, he has moved up the ladder at SES from Proposal Specialist, to Proposal Manager, and most recently Deputy Director of the organization.



Shawn Jyawook is a Managing Director for SaarGummi in the company's automotive division. The SaarGummi Group is a global concern operating in the Americas, Europe, Russia, India, Korea, and China.



Sylvia Bowen is the Executive Administrator in the office of Mayor Randall L. Woodfin. She has served the City of Birmingham since 2010. Sylvia has a passion for servant leadership and its intersection with the business community – it drives her desire to promote community engagement and economic development in the City of Birmingham.



Pamela Johnson has been a manager of Medical Benefit Enrollment for Healthsource Insurance (later acquired by Cigna) and then as an HR Manager for Cameron & Barkley, an industrial and electronic supplier. This led to a position with Amoco – a Fortune 500 company. Her first six years with Amoco were spent as the Area HR Manager, Chemical Intermediates business unit in Charleston, South Carolina.

Student success is a priority for the College of Business. "This program is not for the 22-24 year olds of the world," said Dr. Wes Davenport, Director of Graduate Studies for the College of Business. "This program is a fit for four key groups of people: executives, industry-changers, future academics, and small business owners."

The difference between the EDBA and the MBA is applied research skills and the depth of understanding that comes with that, according to Dr. Davenport.

With an EDBA, a few high-level things you can do are implement research projects, solve complex organizational problems, and teach at a university. How this degree works is innovative and comprehensive. During the 36-month program, students will work online with on-campus sessions for one weekend a month. Degree requirements are 54 post-master's degree credit hours and 21 courses varying in credits from 1-3 hours

each. The cost for the EDBA is approximately \$33,030 per year.

"The EDBA is another example of the curricular and instructional innovation emanating from the College of Business," said Dr. Ross Alexander, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. "I commend Dean Carnes and the College of Business for their foresight in crafting and implementing this exciting new degree program."

"The EDBA is another example of the curricular and instructional innovation emanating from the College of Business."

Eligibility requirements are simple: an MBA or master's degree in a related field is required, as well as a minimum of seven years of substantive work experience, a completed application and resume, official transcripts from all previously attended institutions, two letters of recommendation from professionals in academia or industry, an essay outlining goals and motivations the student in pursuing in the EDBA, and a virtual interview with EDBA Admissions Committee.





UNA Sets Up SOTA Shop in Tuscumbia

It's been more than 150 years since the University of North Alabama has had a presence in Colbert County, but that's no longer the case. Originally founded in 1830 on LaGrange Mountain in Leighton, the University moved to Florence in 1855. This fall, however, the University and representatives from the City of Tuscumbia worked to change that.

The Colbert location, which is on 6th Street in downtown Tuscumbia, provides an opportunity for campus expansion for UNA, and it is also a nod toward regionalism, a key component of the tenure of Kerry "Bubba" Underwood in his role as mayor of the town.

"I went to UNA, and, it might have been during my very first week in office in 2016, when I said I wanted to see my university in Colbert County," said Mayor Underwood. "Seeing this come together, seeing it happen, is exciting because that idea is now a reality, and it's going to be a big benefit to both Tuscumbia and UNA."

Throughout the fall semester, the property was overhauled to renovate and update the space that for years had been a hardware store. Today, the space is bright and open and prepared for use by the School of the Arts, a wing of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Ross Alexander, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, led the initiative for UNA. He said that it makes sense that the University would seek to expand its regional footprint, and it makes sense to do so in Colbert County.

"The University of North Alabama has an obligation to serve the entire Shoals community and the entire North Alabama region," Alexander said.

In addition to providing office, classroom, and gallery space for SOTA, the facility is also a permanent home to a representative from the Office of Advancement. Alexander said a box office and fan shop are also possibilities for the Tuscumbia location in the future.





A LOOK BACK, A STEP FORWARD

Founders' Day recognizes UNA's place as state's oldest four-year institution

By Molly Kirkpatrick
For the *UNA Magazine*

The University of North Alabama is known for many things – its shaded walkways surrounded by spacious greenswards, historic architecture, burbling fountains, and a live lion mascot. UNA is unique among four-year institutions in Alabama and has a vibrant and tradition-rich history.

In January 2020, UNA commemorated its role as the oldest four-year university in the state when it observed its 190th birthday. The event took place on Jan. 13, two days after the actual founding of Jan. 11. Celebrants enjoyed a brief presentation, along with cupcakes and free t-shirts in the Guillot University Center.

The University has its roots in Colbert County where it was known as LaGrange College. What began atop LaGrange Mountain with just 70 male students and three faculty members in 1830 has grown into a community of more than 8,000 diverse students in Lauderdale County.

Getting here, getting to this place and this historic moment on the cusp of the University's bicentennial means also looking back and considering that past alongside UNA's future, according to Dr. Jeffrey Bibbee, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"You don't know where you're going if you don't know where you've been," Bibbee said. "We as an institution have a long history, and we have an even longer future. I think it's important for us to take

a moment to reflect on the university's successes, and some failures, and to learn from those experiences and use that as a point of inspiration. What do we want to be in the future?"

Founders' Day is a way for the University community to commemorate its history and look forward to the future. In preparation for those events, a Founders' Day work group has been formed: "The purpose of Founders' Day at the University of North Alabama is to commemorate the University's history as Alabama's first four-year institution and to allow that history to guide and direct our future as an evolving global university with innovation, engagement, and inclusivity at our core."

Dr. Tammy Jacques, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, has been named the chair of the Founders' Day work group that is tasked with organizing

future commemorations.

"A lot of people don't know this," she said, "but we were founded only 11 years after the state of Alabama was founded."

Participation in Founders' Day events is important for students, faculty, and staff because it encourages the campus community to find a connection with the University.

"Students are a part of the history of this school," Dr. Jacques said.

The commemoration isn't just about cupcakes and free shirts, however. Barbie Terry, assistant vice president for Advancement, said that as the state's oldest four-year public institution, there comes a different level of responsibility, one that means a focus on education and the evolution of that education to meet the ever-changing needs of the workforce.

"We are a phenomenal educational institution. But we give our students so much more than that," she said. "We give them the social interaction they need, cultural interaction, and educational experiences they need. We offer the community more than other areas in the state, and we have a responsibility to continue that."

As part of the Founders' Day event, the Office of Advancement had a Founders' Day philanthropic event and will continue that tradition in 2021 and beyond. More than \$32,000 was raised as part of the 2020 Founders' Day giving day.

"We raise current-use money for Founders' Day," Terry said. "Money raised for the 1830 Fund goes to the greatest needs and emerging priorities for the university as determined by the leadership of the university. This account will provide money to increase experiential and transformational learning opportunities for our students. The first \$50,000 given will be used exclusively for that purpose. All remaining dollars given toward the 1830 Fund will be committed to the relocation of critical components of our student support services, including the Business Office and Student Financial Services, into the Wendell W. Gunn University Commons building."

- 1830** • LaGrange College opens with 70 students and three faculty members. Tuition was \$10 per term, or \$282 in today's money.
- 1850** • Smallpox pandemic closes the campus for two months.
- 1855** • The campus moves to Florence, in Lauderdale County.
- 1874** • Thirty-one young women enroll making UNA the first coeducational teacher-training school in the United States.
- 1879** • First women join the faculty.
- 1882** • Alumni Association formed.
- 1906** • Glee Club and Athletics are first offered.
- 1910** • The motto "Veritas Lux Orbis Terrarum" (Truth is the light of the world) is adopted.
- 1931** • Florence State Teachers College awards its first Bachelor of Science degree.
- 1931** • The Flor-Ala published in December.
- 1949** • First band is formed, and first majorette team is formed.
- 1949** • First Homecoming queen, Margaret Eubank, is crowned.
- 1963** • Wendell Gunn is admitted as first African-American student.
- 1974** • Leo I arrives on campus
- 1991** • NBC's "Today Show" is broadcast from the UNA campus.
- 2020** • UNA's first doctoral program begins



SUCCESS AGAINST THE ODDS

*Lions face tough schedules in Division I
(and a pandemic) yet they prevail*

By Jeremy Henderson | For the UNA Magazine

The past year for UNA Athletics has been nothing if not a success story, global pandemic notwithstanding.

Athletics Director Mark Linder couldn't be prouder.

"We recently received notice that we've successfully completed Year 2 of the four-year transition period into Division I," Linder said. "It's extremely gratifying because even with the COVID-19 crisis, our administration and staff haven't let fear reduce who we are. We're financially sound, and we've kept our athletes safe while continuing to live up to our responsibility to teach them to compete in sports and in life."

Here's a current snapshot of each team representing UNA on the field, court, track, and fairway in these unprecedented times.

FOOTBALL

UNA football continues to play some of the toughest schedules in the nation, facing four ranked FCS teams on the road in 2019 and three FBS teams on its shortened 2020 schedule. In 2019, in UNA's first season as a member of the Big South Conference, the Lions led the league in football attendance, and UNA defensive back K.J. Smith was named as the Big South Male Scholar Athlete of the Year for all sports.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

In two seasons on the Division I level, UNA men's basketball has crossed the country to take on many of the nation's premier programs like Gonzaga, Indiana, Florida State, South Carolina, and Pittsburgh. The Lions have also earned a spot in the ASUN post-season tournament in each of their first two seasons in the league.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

With three consecutive 20-plus win seasons, the UNA women's basketball program has already placed itself among the top programs in the ASUN. The Lions have had back-to-back 21-9 records in 2019 and 2020, and advanced to the semifinals of the 2020 ASUN Conference Tournament, hosting that game in front of a near-capacity crowd at Flowers Hall.



BASEBALL

Competing in one of the nation's premier baseball conferences, the Lions held their own in the ASUN in 2019, but saw the 2020 season cut short after just 16 games because of COVID-19. The Lions' 2021 schedule includes 24 conference games and non-conference matchups with Auburn, Vanderbilt, Louisiana-Lafayette, Mercer, Davidson, Dayton, Belmont, Little Rock, Jacksonville State, Austin Peay, Tennessee Tech, Alabama A&M, and Alabama State.

SOCcer

UNA's soccer team advanced to the championship match of the ASUN Conference Tournament in the program's first year in Division I and finished 11-9-1 in 2019. The Lions fell to 6-11 in 2020, yet UNA senior Shelby Wall led the conference in numerous categories, including most goals scored with 15. The Lions also received a Team Academic Award from the United Soccer Coaches for a seventh straight year in 2019 and for the ninth time in program history, with a combined team GPA of 3.74.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Peyton Ewoldt and Brandon Lee were both honored twice by the ASUN Conference as Runners of the Week in 2019; Ewoldt earned Academic All-ASUN recognition as well. The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association named the Lions a 2019 NCAA Division I All-Academic Team for their cumulative 3.23 grade point average.



WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

UNA women's cross country runners Phoebe Moon and Kara Nix earned All-ASUN Conference honors in 2019, and Nix and Emma Knight were Academic All-ASUN honorees. The UNA team, with a cumulative 3.57 grade point average, was named as a 2019 NCAA Division I All-Academic Team by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

MEN'S GOLF

The UNA men's golf team has made a successful transition to the Division I level and competes in tournaments across the region and nation against the top collegiate programs. UNA's Jackson Wedgeworth took medalist honors in a field of 102 golfers at the 2019 Tiger Invitational presented by Jason Dufner at Auburn.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Since the start of the UNA women's golf program in 2018-19, the Lions have made continued progress. The UNA women posted progressively lower scores in each of their 2019-20 tournaments before the remainder of the season was cancelled.

VOLLEYBALL

A perennial power on the Division II level, the UNA women's volleyball program has struggled so far in Division I with 4-21 and 4-25 seasons. The Lions are building for the future with an abundance of incoming talent.

SOFTBALL

Following on the success of its 2016 NCAA Division II National Championship, the UNA softball program has made strong showings in its first two seasons in Division I, going 26-20 in 2019 and 16-7 in 2020 before the season was cut short. Additionally, UNA's Megan Garst was the 2019 ASUN Conference Pitcher of the Year with a 16-6 record and a school record 0.83 earned run average.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

In just two seasons of beach volleyball competition, the Lions have been extremely competitive against more established programs with 10-12 and 5-7 records during the last two years. UNA was 4-4 in conference play in 2019, and the 2020 season was stopped before conference play began.

MEN'S TENNIS

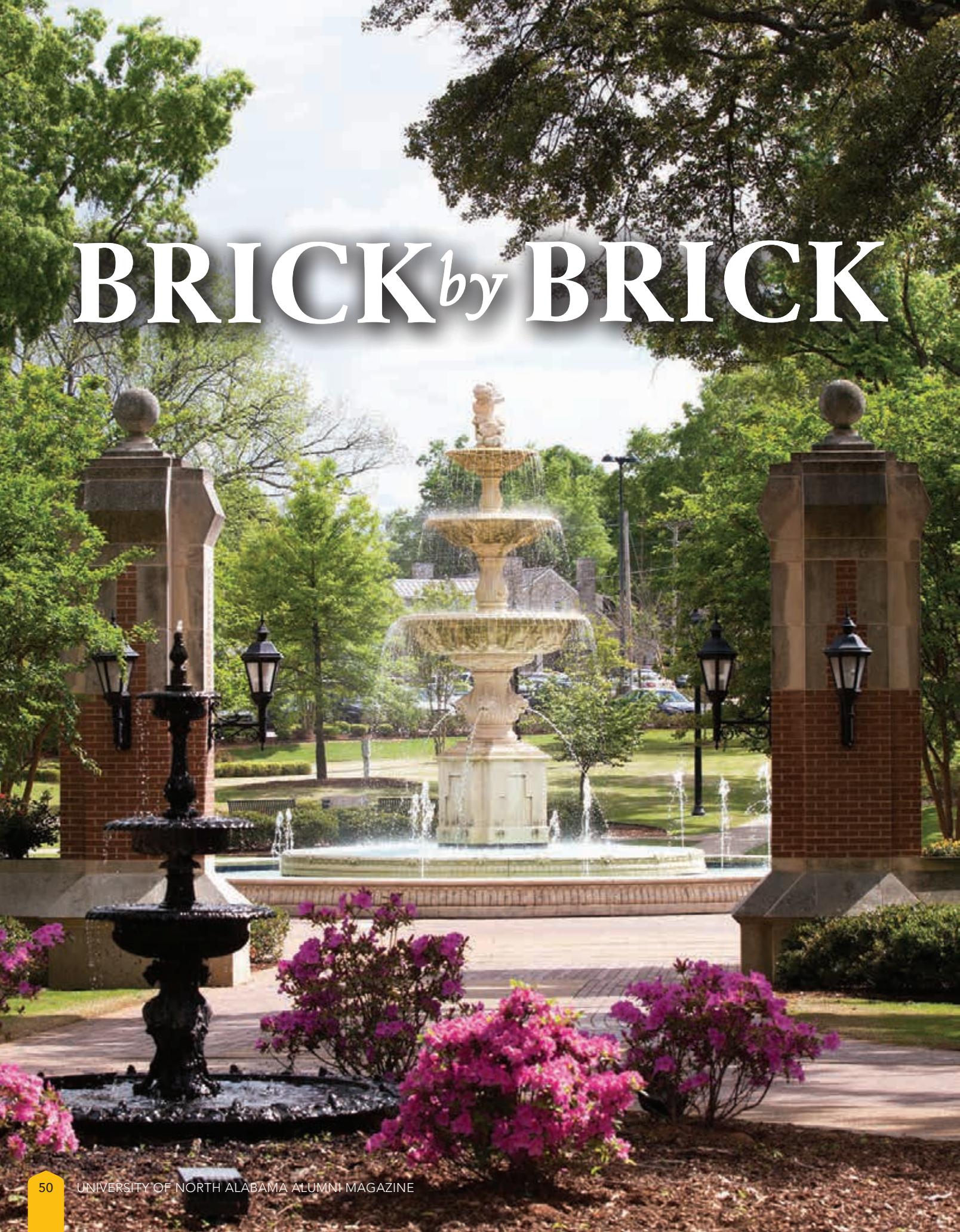
With non-conference schedules filled with Southeastern Conference opponents and competitive ASUN Conference teams, the UNA men's tennis team has faced a tough road in Division I so far. The Lions have posted 3-12 and 3-16 seasons.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The women's tennis program has faced rugged competition in its two seasons on the Division I level, including numerous Southeastern Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference opponents. Head Coach Brice Bishop's philosophy during the transition has been to face the toughest schedule possible to build for the future. The Lions have won a combined 12 matches in the last two seasons.



BRICK*by* BRICK





Legacy Initiative rebuilds the heart of campus

By Michelle Rupe Eubanks '96 | For the *UNA Magazine*

It's been a year since Harrison Fountain collapsed, and in that short time, the University and the Office of Advancement have made great strides at replacing the iconic landmark. Vice President for University Advancement Kevin Haslam visited with us about the initiative to fund the project.

Q: What led to The Legacy Initiative?

A: The afternoon the fountain collapsed President Kitts made it perfectly clear that we would restore it, noting it is so important to so many people. Upon learning Laura Harrison was closely involved in the design of the original fountain, President Kitts determined that the new fountain would be an exact replica of the original. These two decisive decisions were critically important to getting us to where we are today.

The Board of Trustees then, in their March 2020 meeting, authorized the University to restore the Harrison Plaza and Fountain so long as this is done exclusively with money from insurance and private donations. This catapulted the UNA Advancement team to develop a fundraising program that would fund the restoration. It was truly magical to watch the team work together to put together what eventually became known as The Legacy Initiative: Restoring the heart of UNA.

Q: Harrison Plaza and Fountain haven't always been in place. What led to them becoming the heart of the UNA campus? What are some of the traditions we've come to expect?

A: With what I have learned in countless conversations with UNA alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students, you could ask a thousand people this question, and you would probably get a thousand answers.

I believe it became the heart of the UNA campus in part due to its location. It is in this perfect spot surrounded by the Lion Habitat, the Administration Building, and the College of Business. The Plaza is truly striking in its beauty, and people seem to be naturally drawn to it.

A couple of the traditions we have come to expect are the Lucky Dip and the Light the Fountain events. I personally don't think it is these traditions, in and of themselves, that make the plaza and fountain special. It is the countless graduation and bridal pictures; it is the personal conversations and marriage proposals that have taken place there. You can almost feel it as the heart of the University.

Q: What are some of the ways others can participate in and give to The Legacy Initiative?

A: What we really tried to do was make it possible for anyone who wants to participate to

be able to do so. There are naming opportunities beginning at \$150 for a 4" x 8" brick, up to a bench for \$15,000, which can be paid \$3,000 per year for five years. There is also the opportunity for folks to buy a 3"x4"x 1" piece of the original Harrison Fountain for \$100.

Q: Can you provide an update on the plaza and fountain? An idea of how replacing the fountain will work in conjunction with this initiative?

A: The new fountain, made of Italian marble, was in place by the end of the semester. Work will then begin on the plaza. The goal is to have all of the namings that are secured before December 31, 2020, in place before March 12, 2021. Then, as the Initiative continues, namings secured between January 1 and June 30 each year will be placed in the plaza by September 15, while namings secured between July 1 and December 31 will be in the Plaza by March 15.

Q: Can you tell me more about why this initiative is perpetual?

A: The Initiative has two phases: Phase I is all about the fountain and the plaza. It should be noted that 90 percent of the cost to name each brick during Phase I will go toward the restoration of the plaza and fountain, while 10 percent will be used to establish an endowment that will provide for the maintenance of the fountain, plaza, and all pathways leading to them. Once the fountain and plaza project are fully funded, we will move to Phase II.

In Phase II, the monies will go to the University's Annual Fund, the 1830 Fund. Monies in this fund are used for the greatest needs and emerging priorities of the University. As with Phase I, brick purchases in Phase II will be split, with 90 percent going to the 1830 Fund and 10 percent being used to establish an endowment for the President to use to meet the greatest needs of the University.

When I state that the initiative will be perpetual, there are two things: First, every year we have new students coming to and graduating from UNA. This means there are new people every year who may have the desire to have their name forever etched in Harrison Plaza. And this does not include new faculty and staff members. It is our desire to give everyone who wants to participate the opportunity to do so.

Second, there are 14,000 4"x8" bricks in Harrison Plaza and more than 500 8"x8" bricks. Additionally, we have already had conversations about turning part, or all, of the pathways leading to the Plaza into brick and thus continuing to give folks the opportunity to participate.

ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

Although Homecoming didn't happen as planned in October of 2020, winners of the prestigious alumni awards were announced, and presentations to the winners will take place in Spring 2021. This year's award winners are:

Lifetime Achievement Award:
Dr. Robert L. Potts

Alumni of the Year Award:
Tyrone Jerrell Dennis, '02

Friend of the University:
UNA Police Officer Gregory M. Kirby and K9 Toby

Military Service Award:
Lt. Col. (Ret.) Joerle "JB" Blaine Blackman, '84

Faculty/Staff Alumni Service Award: LeRoy "Lee" Franklin Brownell Jr., '90

Community Service Award:
Sonja Redonna Croone, '98

Educator of the Year Award:
Ana Carolina "Carol" Behel, '93

Public Service Award:
Casey Jerome Eggleston, '97

Young Alumni Award:
Indigo Jade Shanice Fort, '15



From the Alumni President

To say that the year 2020 will be unforgettable is an understatement. Also, to say that our University of North Alabama family has grown stronger from these challenging times is another understatement. In times of adversity, there are only two options: overcome or collapse. Our University has risen above and will continue to rise with a determined sense of success for our future. That, my friends, is why I love our special alma mater.

I am excited to be a part of our National Alumni Association this year. I am following in the amazing footsteps of my dear friend Tosha-Paige Whitten, who has done an outstanding job navigating this year of challenges. She has taught me patience and understanding to make it through uncharted territory. I will be forever grateful for her leadership, and to continue her vision we have to stay focused on the challenges we are facing.

One of our many visions at UNA is Caring for the Pride.

During the economic hardships of this past year, students may be unable to make ends meet while continuing to better themselves through education. This is where we as alumni can help. I did not realize that UNA had a food pantry for students who were having difficulty buying food. We know that hunger in the United States is a true problem, but I was unaware of the fact that we have it happening at our University. The mission of The Pantry is to support the basic needs of the UNA community and raise awareness about the growing issue of food insecurity across campus. I cannot say thank you enough to Beth and Holly and all their team for their amazing efforts to keep the pantry organized and stocked for our students. If you would like to help, please go online at <https://www.una.edu/students/Food-Pantry/index.html> or call 256-765-4248. Help me feed our Pride!

Roar Lions Roar!

Dr. Mary Leigh Gillespie '96
UNA Alumni President 2020-21

HOOME COMING QUEENS *of the PAST*



Brenda Sailors

1961



Mary Settle Wright

1962



Barbara Marston

1970



Debbie Rogers

1974



Becky Triplett

1979



Sherrie Barton

1980



Pam Battles

1983



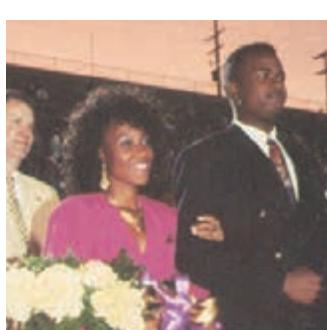
Stephanie Wagoner

1984



Kathy Parker

1985



LaTressa Roulhac and
escort Stanley Jackson

1992



Sherry Harper and
escort Jeff Selby

1993



Cierra Smith and
King Ralph Akalonu

2011



Friends and Fellow Lions,

It has been a privilege to serve you and the University during the past year. We have come together to figure out ways to stay connected and make an impact on the initiatives closest to the heart of our University, including Project 208, Caring for the Pride, and The Legacy Initiative. I am amazed at how the University has stepped up to this year's challenges and how students have navigated these uncharted waters.

As we reflect on UNA's 150th anniversary of the admittance of women, I note the influence of so many women I have formed relationships with at UNA. I would not be where I am or who I am today without this moment in history or without the guidance of my personal UNA heroines: Ms. Lisa Brewer (my mother, and a UNA alumna); UNA professors, Dr. Beth Garfrerick, Dr. Janet McMullen, Ms. Lisa Darnell, Ms. Christa Raney, Dr. Stephanie Montgomery, and Dr. Tera Kirkman; and my dear friend and mentor Ms. Michelle Eubanks. Each of these women hold special qualities that I strive to emulate daily. I challenge you to ask yourself, "Whose hero am I?"

To the National Alumni Board of Directors, Board at Large, and Office of Alumni Relations: Thank you for graciously following my lead this year. Your support has been immensely felt and appreciated. I cannot wait to see where our association will be in the next decade thanks to way-makers like you. Mary Leigh, you are going to be amazing as the 2020-2021 National Alumni Association President. I am excited to see where you take us next to continue building a stronger, louder Lion pride.

Roar Lions!

Tosh-Paige Whitten '13
UNA Alumni President, 2019-20

1960s

Captain Larry Kenneth Hunter ('65) was featured in the August 2020 issue of Vietnam Magazine for his book, *Fire Mission! FireMission!: A Forward Observer's Experiences in Vietnam*.

1970s

Janet Price ('77) has been appointed by Florida Governor to the St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board.

Rex Cheatham ('77) was named President of Calhoun Community College's 2020-2021 College Foundation Board.

Marcia Parsons ('77), chief judge of U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Eastern District of Tennessee, announced her intention to retire at the end of September 2020.

1980s

Kenneth D. May ('81) retired from teaching psychology at Mary Holmes College in West Point, Mississippi. He served as a Psychology Instructor and Academic Advisor for a Student Support Services.

Janice Curtis ('83) received the 2020 Lawrence County Teacher of the Year Award.

Stuart McGregor ('84) was honored with the Governor's Conservation Award as Water Conservationist of the Year.

Angela Pettus ('87) was named one of six finalists for the Alabama State Department of Education's Teacher of the Year award.

Joseph L. Beaver ('87) was named President and CEO of First Southern Bank.

1990s

Kim Kiel ('90) has been selected as an Alabama High School Athletic

Class Notes

Association "Making a Difference" Award recipient for the 2019-20 school year.

Dawn Truitt ('93) was appointed as the new CEO of the Valley Credit Union.

Michelle Rupe Eubanks ('96) was re-elected to her seat as the District 4 representative on the City Council of Florence, Alabama.

Robert Blankenship ('97) named regional publisher of the Andalusia Star-News, Brewton Standard, Atmore Advance, and all affiliated print and digital products.

Jeremy Prather ('98) was named CFO at Air Tractor, Inc., an agricultural aircraft manufacturer.

Roderick Dewayne Sheppard ('98) was awarded the 2020 Outstanding Administrator Award by the Alabama State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (ASAHPERD).

Bulent Yaman ('99) and his wife, Sengul, opened a new Turkish restaurant called Red Meze in downtown Johnson City, Tennessee.

2000s

Clinton Carter ('00) was named CFO of Huntsville Hospital Health System.

Andrew Wardlow ('00) received the Best of Show award for his photograph in the F/Stop photography competition at the Panama City Center for the Arts.

Matthew Schmitz ('00) was named Chief Growth Officer of Alabama

Government Contracting company, Martin Federal Consulting, Inc.

Beth Brumley ('01) received a 2020 AlabamaWorks! Innovator Award from Alabama Governor Kay Ivey and State Deputy Director of Commerce Ed Castile at a recent virtual conference.

Chad Holden ('02) was selected by the Muscle Shoals Board of Education to serve as Superintendent of Education for Muscle Shoals City Schools.

Jennifer L. Smith ('02) published a book, *Leading with Jesus*, about leadership and management of a small business.

Kevin Lee Davis ('02) recently completed a doctoral degree at Samford University in Educational Leadership.

Carl Brackin Jr. ('04) created the 2020 Handy Festival poster which honored healthcare workers.

Rachel Winston ('04) was elected to the Florence City Board of Education.

Brandon Wilcox ('08) accepted a position as Offensive Coordinator on the Center Point High School football staff.

Mary Day Smith ('08) was named Shoals Woman of the Year 2020 by Tennessee Valley Media.

2010s

Adam Moody ('11) was named principal at Brooks Elementary School.

LaKeva Harris ('11) and her husband, Rodney Harris Jr., opened

Florence's first pediatric urgent care clinic: Kids First Pediatric Urgent Care, LLC.

Mason Kirkland ('11) was promoted to Senior Management Analyst for the US Department of Homeland Security Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Emma Clapp ('14) was named the Executive Director of the Family Success Center of Etowah County.

Kyle G. Stephenson ('15) was promoted to Senior Accountant at Nail McKinney Professional Association.

Trentavious McCants ('15) was promoted to Head Basketball Coach at Lanett High School.

Jasmine Fleming ('17) received a Gold Hermes Creative Award from the Association of Marketing & Communication Professionals in the blog writing category.

Erin Leigh Hill ('18) graduated from Louisiana State University with a Master of Mass Communication in Spring 2020. She also accepted a job in Washington, D.C., with Targeted Victory's political team.

Hugo Dante ('18) graduated from George Mason University with a Master of Arts in Economics and completed a graduate research fellowship with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

Lacie Rowe ('19) and Julia McGee ('19) researched and helped create a traveling exhibit, "Women of the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area," which will be housed at the Oakville Indian Mounds Museum.

In Memory

Graduates '30s

LOIS BAKER WHITE ('37)	JOHN TONY MCNUTT ('68)	AMY JO GIBBS ('83)
February 9, 1934 - September 6, 2020	February 24, 1946 - August 9, 2020	December 31, 1960 - May 11, 2020
BIDDY BLESSING STEWART ('39)	JUDY BURTON JEFFREYS ('68)	GUY YOUNG MCCLURE JR. ('85)
August 15, 1919 - July 2, 2020	April 30, 1946 - May 23, 2020	September 18, 1961 - November 7, 2020
WILLIAM RICHARD "DICK" COFFEY ('39)	WILLIAM LANNY MCALISTER ('65)	KATIE ANN MASSEY ('86)
December 15, 1926 - June 8, 2020	January 7, 1943 - May 28, 2020	September 28, 1938 - September 8, 2020

Graduates '50s

HERMAN C. MYERS ('50)	CHRIS DUPREE MALONE ('70)	CHRISTOPHER C. LITRELL ('92)
April 10, 1927 - September 7, 2020	January 2, 1947 - February 19, 2020	August 22, 1970 - February 4, 2020
SARAH RUTH BRADFORD HORN ('52)	GREGG LEE CHAMPION ('70)	JAMES "ERIC" MONTGOMERY ('95)
January 2, 1931 - May 7, 2020	d. May 3, 2020	December 30, 1972 - April 23, 2020
CHARLES MONTY BEARDEN ('53)	MILDRED L. KIRKLAND ('70)	JASON ROGER HOUSTON ('96)
September 5, 1927 - March 10, 2020	February 15, 1928 - February 25, 2017	October 2, 1974 - May 5, 2020
IRENE SHORT COUNTS ('53)	BEVERLY BEADLE WATSON ('72)	FACULTY AND STAFF
April 17, 1930 - April 23, 2020	October 12, 1947 - June 20, 2020	MAVA LEE WILLIAMS BARFIELD
ELLIS DEAN FIKES ('56)	JOHN E. JORDAN JR. ('72)	January 28, 1943 - September, 2020
April 27, 1930 - July 16, 2020	d. September 12, 2020	WILLIAM ANDREW "ANDY" HAILEY
ROBERT "BOBBY" VANCE WATKINS ('56)	PATRICIA SANDERSON KEETON ('72)	RONALD "RON" DEAN HOOTEN
February 3, 1935 - June 18, 2020	August 30, 1950 - July 23, 2020	d. April 23, 2020
STANLEY D. MOSES ('57)	BOBBY MAREL AYERS ('74)	DR. CHARLES "BUD" RICHMOND
July 9, 1934 - July 14, 2020	January 22, 1939 - June 5, 2020	d. September 13, 2020
WELTON RODGER CARTER ('59)	JEAN SCHULMAN ('75)	SUE HASSELL TAYLOR
June 11, 1932 - June 19, 2020	September 29, 1927 - April 29, 2020	August 27, 1933 - July 2, 2020

Graduates '60s

JAMES L. SADLER ('60)	CLAUDE FRANKS ('77)	CERLINE TAYLOR LONG
July 6, 1932 - March 3, 2020	GORDON FRAZIER ('77)	December 5, 1933 - May 13, 2020
BRUCE GEORGE MCBRAYER ('61)	MARY MELANIE TIMMONS ('77)	JOANNE GILBERT RISNER
d. August 30, 2020	November 18, 1954 - January 1, 2020	August 24, 1936 - September 20, 2020
HARLAN H. PHILLIPS ('61)	RONALD RAY "RONN" YARBROUGH ('78)	MILDRED FENNEL PREUIT MAULDIN
July 12, 1932 - July 1, 2020	October 14, 1947 - February 26, 2020	October 30, 1927 - September 8, 2020
LEWIS "MACK" CARMICHAEL ('63)	Graduates '80s	NANCY AGNUS RUBINO
July 5, 1939 - May 12, 2020	JAMES "MIKE" SMITH ('80)	June 12, 1965 - January 14, 2020
ROBERT ARCHER MARTIN ('63)	September 30, 1949 - November 11, 2019	DR. LLOYD EDWARD JONES JR.
March 28, 1941 - September 15, 2020	COL. STEVEN ALAN EMISON ('81)	July 11, 1937 - June 5, 2020

WILLIAM JERRY MITZNER ('63)	JAMES "MIKE" SMITH ('80)	UNA
September 14, 1941 - April 2, 2020	September 30, 1949 - November 11, 2019	2002 - June 30, 2020
MYRON WILSON ('66)	COL. STEVEN ALAN EMISON ('81)	L.C. JEFFRIES
January 20, 1944 - August 25, 2020	November 13, 1950 - June 15, 2020	June 1, 1930 - July 3, 2020

AMY JO GIBBS ('83)	GUY YOUNG MCCLURE JR. ('85)
December 31, 1960 - May 11, 2020	September 18, 1961 - November 7, 2020
KATIE ANN MASSEY ('86)	
September 28, 1938 - September 8, 2020	

Graduates '90s

CHRISTOPHER C. LITRELL ('92)
August 22, 1970 - February 4, 2020
JAMES "ERIC" MONTGOMERY ('95)
December 30, 1972 - April 23, 2020
JASON ROGER HOUSTON ('96)
October 2, 1974 - May 5, 2020

Faculty and Staff

MAVA LEE WILLIAMS BARFIELD
January 28, 1943 - September, 2020
WILLIAM ANDREW "ANDY" HAILEY
October 19, 1943 - May 11, 2020
RONALD "RON" DEAN HOOTEN
d. April 23, 2020
DR. CHARLES "BUD" RICHMOND
d. September 13, 2020
SUE HASSELL TAYLOR
August 27, 1933 - July 2, 2020

Friends of the University

CERLINE TAYLOR LONG
December 5, 1933 - May 13, 2020
JOANNE GILBERT RISNER
August 24, 1936 - September 20, 2020
MILDRED FENNEL PREUIT MAULDIN
October 30, 1927 - September 8, 2020
NANCY AGNUS RUBINO
June 12, 1965 - January 14, 2020
DR. LLOYD EDWARD JONES JR.
July 11, 1937 - June 5, 2020
UNA
2002 - June 30, 2020
L.C. JEFFRIES
June 1, 1930 - July 3, 2020
RANDY BASSHAM
October 16, 1949 - July 9, 2020

Honor
your
loved
ones with
a lasting
LEGACY



THE LEGACY INITIATIVE

Rebuilding the heart of UNA

The Legacy Initiative gives everyone the opportunity to establish their legacy at the University of North Alabama by helping rebuild the heart of the majestic UNA campus – Harrison Fountain and Plaza – and to insure the perpetual vitality of UNA and to have their names forever etched in Harrison Plaza.

The Legacy Initiative will have two phases:

- **Phase I** is the restoration of the Harrison Fountain and Plaza and will continue until this project is fully funded.
- **Phase II** is the securing of funds and the establishment of an endowment for the greatest needs and emerging priorities of the University. This phase will continue until every brick in Harrison Plaza, and the pathways leading to it, has the name of someone on it who loves UNA as much as we do.

Harrison Plaza Legacy Opportunities

Bricks

Engrave a brick in your name or the name of a loved one; honor a soldier or veteran; in memory of a special person in your life; honor a teacher or student; mark a special date in your life (graduation, birthday, anniversary, or wedding). The possibilities are endless.

- 90 percent of the cost of each brick purchased will go towards the restoration of Harrison Fountain and Plaza.
- 10 percent of the cost will go to establish the Harrison Plaza Endowment will provide for the greatest needs and emerging priorities of Harrison Fountain and Plaza, including all pathways to the Plaza (Aderholt Way, Shelby Way, Cramer Way, etc.).

The opportunities available include:

8 x 8 Brick

Regular Price	\$300
Faculty/Staff/Retirees/Students/	\$150
Recent Graduates (up to 12 months after graduation)	

4 x 8 Brick

Regular Price	\$150
Faculty/Staff/Retirees/Students/	\$75
Recent Graduates (up to 12 months after graduation)	

The donor will have 3 lines, 20 characters per line including spaces, to inscribe their legacy message.

Please visit una.edu/legacy to purchase your brick today!



Division of Advancement
University of North Alabama
UNA Box 5113
Florence, Alabama 35632-0001

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PRESORTED
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
UNIVERSITY OF
NORTH ALABAMA



FOR UPDATES ON ATHLETICS' SPRING SCHEDULE, VISIT
ROARLIONS.COM